



County Borough of Reading

---

**Annual Report**

OF THE

**Medical Officer of Health**

AND

**School Medical Officer**

FOR THE YEAR

**1949**

By

**E. HUGHES., M.D., D.P.H.**



COUNTY BOROUGH OF READING

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1949

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## HEALTH COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Councillor G. S. Field, O.B.E., T.D., J.P.)

### Aldermen

ARTHUR FRANK CLARK ( <i>Chairman</i> )	ALICE JENKINS, J.P.
ALFRED LOVELL	WILLIAM MATHIAS NEWHAM
THOMAS STEPHEN	WILLIAM SMART

### Councillors

ROBERT ARTHUR BRADLEY	MARY KATHARINE LOGAN DAHNE
ERNEST DORRELL ( <i>Vice-Chairman</i> )	ALICE JEANNETTE BURROWS
LILIAN MARY MILLER	BERTHA ALICE MAY SMITH, J.P.
FRANK HUMPHRYS LEWIS	REGINALD KENT STANLEY LONDON
JOHN STANLEY WOODROW	EDITH ELLA LOVETT
GEORGE FREDERICK MANDER	EDITH MORRIS

### *Non-Members of the Council*

GEORGE ROSS	ROBERT GERRETT REID, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S.
FRANCIS ERIC WHEELER, M.B.E., F.R.C.S.	BRIAN RUSSELL MOORE, L.D.S., R.C.S.
WILLIAM IVOR BAIN, M.A., M.B.	WILLIAM LELEAN PULLEN, M.P.S.
NANCY A. SHARP	

## STAFF AT DECEMBER 31st, 1949

### Medical Officer of Health

E. HUGHES, M.D., D.P.H., D.P.A.

### Deputy Medical Officer of Health

T. W. ROBSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

### Assistant Medical Officers of Health

VIOLET FRASER, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

S. J. McCLATCHEY, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

### Medical Officers (Part-Time) Maternity and Child Welfare

S. GILFORD, M.B., Ch.B.

A. H. PRICE, M.D., D.P.H.

C. V. GLEDHILL, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

A. J. HARDY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.O.G.

P. W. F. McILVENNA, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S. P. SYMONS, M.B., Ch.B.

### Public Analyst

T. McLACHLAN, A.C.G.F.C., F.I.C.

### Chief Sanitary Inspector

W. E. BOND

### Sanitary Inspectors

E. L. W. GEEN  
H. MORTIMORE

H. SYRAD  
D. T. LEWIS

D. CARTRIDGE

### Superintendent Health Visitor and Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives

Miss E. V. LEE

### Health Visitors

Miss H. A. MORTIMER  
„ M. JACKSON  
„ M. T. WRIGHT

Miss E. FEW  
„ G. WHITE  
„ C. COLE

Mrs. CALDICOTT  
„ L. C. KINGLSEY  
(Part-time)

### Tuberculosis Visitors

Miss M. WARD

Mrs. O. CLIFF

### Corporation Midwives

Miss O'DELL  
„ PARSONS

Miss KING  
„ PALMER

Mrs. TEAL

### Mental Welfare Officers

Miss D. M. COLLINS

Miss J. M. ROBB (*Assistant*)

### Authorised Officers

G. E. TURNBULL

C. E. HOUSE

### Chief Clerk

C. I. AUST

### Domestic Help Service

Mrs. JONES (*Assistant Organiser*) Miss MOORE (*Assistant Organiser*)

### Occupation Centre

Miss E. M. BARKAS (*Supervisor*)

### Superintendent Queen Victoria Institute

Miss HINKSMAN

### Day Nurseries

Holybrook House—Mrs. M. MORRIS (*Matron*) Victoria Square—Mrs. B. COOK (*Matron*)

### Battle Residential Nursery

Miss M. TIDSWELL (*Sister I/C*)

### Home Teachers for the Blind

Miss HODGE

Miss LEEMING

### Administrative Assistant for the purposes of the National Assistance Act 1948

G. E. TURNBULL

### Woodlands Old People's Homes

L. A. G. WICKS (*Warden*)

Mrs. G. WICKS (*Matron*)

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S DEPARTMENT,  
TOWN HALL,  
READING,

*September, 1950.*

**TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
HEALTH COMMITTEE**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual Report for the year 1949.

With the exception of an increase in the incidence of poliomyelitis the statistics show a steady improvement. The infant mortality rate is the lowest ever, the crude death rate is, with two exceptions, the lowest since 1900, and the maternal mortality has been low. The notification rate of pulmonary tuberculosis continues to fall although it has not reached the pre-war figures; the decrease in the notification rate of non-pulmonary tuberculosis has been spectacular; the death rate from both forms of disease continues to fall steadily.

No doubt these figures are adequate indices of the presence of certain frank diseases but are they sufficiently sensitive to assess the state of health of a community in view of our present conception that health is a positive state of well being and not a mere absence of disease? The answer is that they are not and more sensitive indices are required. One hopes that it will be possible before very long to supply the Medical Officer of Health with full data from the sickness returns which are available to the Ministry of National Insurance. A start has already been made in this direction and one hopes that fuller information will be available before long. With the exception of the increase in poliomyelitis, to which reference is made in the body of the report, I think it can be claimed that progress was maintained during 1949.

The year 1949 saw the conclusion of the first complete year's working of the National Health Service Act and the other social legislation which came into force on the 5th July, 1948. It is probably too early to see how the operation of the Act will take its final form, and at the moment I can only remark on certain tendencies insofar as they affect the work of the Local Health Authority.



There is no doubt that the ability to call a family doctor as a right is a great asset. At the Infant Welfare Clinics and at the School Medical Clinics we can now refer cases to the family doctor in the sure knowledge that they will not be deterred from applying for his help because of financial reasons. It was undoubtedly the case previously that many children who were advised to consult their family doctor did not do so because of the question of expense. The co-operation between my Department and the General Practitioners in Reading has been very good and I feel that in this respect there has been a very definite gain to the pre-school and school children. The Minor Ailment Clinic can fulfil its true function of dealing with minor ailments and the inspection clinics and routine school inspections can maintain their original function of giving advice to parents and not trying to undertake treatment on a limited scale.

Much is said about the increase in the use of the Ambulance and Hospital Car Services. Steps have been taken to avoid, so far as possible, any abuse of the services, but, of course, the main function of the Local Health Authority is to provide an adequate service to meet the requests of the Medical Practitioners—by far the greater portion of these requests are in connection with the Hospital Service. There is no doubt that the correct use of this service will mean the earlier discharge of patients from hospital and a more rapid turnover of hospital beds; in the long run there should, therefore, be a saving in the total national expenditure. My impression is that the drivers and officers in Reading are alive to the possibilities of abuse of the service and any doubtful cases are investigated and in some instances it has been possible to secure the modification or the cancellation of an order to provide these services.

Shortage of Nursing Staff has caused difficulties during the past year. We know that the hospitals are also short of staff and are, therefore, having to refuse to admit patients; such patients as require nursing must be dealt with by the Local Health Authority's Services and I am sorry to have to report that there has been a curtailment of the Nursing Service which we can offer because of shortage of staff. The reasons for this shortage are well known and there is no doubt that the delays in the negotiations for salaries and conditions of service of District Nurses, as in all other branches of the Local Health Authority's Services, has had a very serious effect on recruitment.

Reference must be made to the tragedy of the Local Authority Dental Service. The following words may be of interest:—"The services which the School Dental Officers now give to expectant mothers and pre-school children will be expanded. The present staff of three whole-time dentists working

in four Dental Clinics, will be increased gradually to six and the clinics to six in number as measures to improve the acceptance rate become more effective, particular care being given to conservative treatment." These brave words are a quotation from the scheme which was submitted a little over two years ago by the Reading Borough Council and approved by the Ministry of Health in anticipation of the operation of the National Health Service. Our position at the moment is that we have two dentists who are struggling valiantly to keep some sort of service going, but they are having to carry out far too high a proportion of casual work.

The fate of tuberculous patients has caused concern in Reading as elsewhere. Shortage of sanatorium beds has led to the development of a scheme of domiciliary treatment by the Tuberculosis Officer and a judicious blending of hospital and domiciliary treatment appears to be the answer to the shortage of sanatorium beds for some years to come. It is indeed unfortunate that the responsibility for the After Care of tuberculous patients and prevention of the spread of tuberculosis should be the responsibility of one Authority, whereas the treatment of the actual disease is the responsibility of two other Authorities, e.g., the Regional Hospital Board or the Local Executive Council. Treatment and prevention of tuberculosis go hand in hand and it seems inappropriate that different bodies should be responsible for these two aspects. It seems incongruous that a Tuberculosis Officer may be paid for the treatment of established disease at a rate which is nearly three times that for which he is paid for preventing the disease.

The foregoing brief remarks apply, of course, only to certain aspects of the National Health Service Act which affect a Local Health Authority, but I would not like the Committee to feel that the picture is one of unrelieved gloom. Taking a broad view I think it can be claimed that the administrative arrangements work as smoothly in Reading as it is possible for them to do under the existing set-up and I am very much indebted to the Officers of the Hospital Management Committee and the Local Executive Council for their unfailing kindness and co-operation in all matters on which we have met.

So far as the National Assistance Act is concerned, all I can report is a year of steady preparation for the opening of the new Hostels into which the people at present housed in Battle Hospital can be moved. Unfortunately the various delays which occurred prevented us from opening one during 1949, although the first Hostel was in fact opened early in 1950. But annoying as the various delays are, I think it can be claimed that the Committee has set a high standard for its accommodation under the National



Assistance Act, and my hope is that the remaining Hostels will be up to the standard of Wychotes which was the first Hostel to be opened.

Unfortunately it has not been possible to make any firm arrangements in regard to the Welfare of the Deaf and Dumb.

Arrangements for the Welfare of the Blind have continued mainly through the agency of the Reading Association for the Welfare of the Blind although a formal agreement has not yet been signed.

I am sure that the Committee will be interested to read the section on the sanitary circumstances of the area; nowadays there seems to be too great a tendency to neglect the basic principles of hygiene which still remain a necessity for clean water, clean food and good housing. Mr. Bond's department has worked well in spite of the small number of staff and the introduction of the new legislation in regard to Milk and Dairies, which has proceeded smoothly. It is pleasing to record that approximately 99 per cent of the milk which is retailed in Reading is either pasteurised or tuberculin tested milk. The very low incidence of non-pulmonary tuberculosis is no doubt in part due to this factor.

No worker in the Medical Officer's Department can comment on the state of health of the people within his area without making mention of the housing position. We are fortunate in Reading that we do not have any great slum clearance problem, but the incidence of overcrowding is extremely high, although exact figures are not available without a survey of the town. Like other towns we have been unable to provide the number of houses which we would like to provide, although the Borough Architect informs me that we are building up to the target allowed for us by the Ministry of Health. When there is ultimately a satisfactory solution to our housing problem, I think we shall have solved many of the present problems in regard to physical and mental adjustment which exists at the present time.

What does the future hold in store for this Department? This is an answer which many of us would like to know, but I would remind the Committee that apart from the very important duties in connection with environmental hygiene which fall to the Department and its additional duties under the National Assistance Act that we still have to carry out extremely important duties under Part III of the National Health Service Act. In fact in some ways Section 28, which charges the Local Health Authority with the Care and After Care of patients and the prevention of illness, is the most important section in the whole

National Health Service Act. If the Local Health Authorities play their part then we should be able to rectify the present over emphasis on the treatment of established disease with consequent benefit to the nation's health and to its purse.

Before I conclude this report I would like to express my appreciation of the support which has been given to me by all members of the Health Committee in carrying out my duties during my first year of office as Medical Officer of Health for Reading.

Lastly, may I express my appreciation to the various members of my staff for their loyal and willing help throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

E. HUGHES,

*Medical Officer of Health.*



## Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

(1948 figures in brackets)

Area (acres) ... ..	9,106	(9,106)																				
Population (estimated December, 1949)	115,500	(114,500)																				
Area Comparability Factor ... ..	.95	—																				
Number of inhabited houses accord- to rate books at 31/3/49 ... ..	30,032	(29,638)																				
Rateable Value (31/12/49) ... ..	£1,105,137	(£1,037,718)																				
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (31/3/49) ... ..	£4,233	(£4,233)																				
Total cost of services administered by the Health Committee and the Welfare Services Sub-Committee of the Education Committee for the year ended 31st March, 1949 :																						
Expenditure ... ..	£200,829	(£301,587)																				
Income ... ..	£46,315	(£70,722)																				
<table><tr><td></td><td>Total</td><td>Males</td><td>Females</td><td>Birth Rate per 1,000 pop.</td></tr><tr><td>Live Births</td><td>1,873 (2,048)</td><td>957 (1,041)</td><td>916 (1,007)</td><td>16.26 (17.88)</td></tr><tr><td>Legitimate</td><td>1,759 (1,895)</td><td>902 (967)</td><td>857 (928)</td><td>15.27 (16.55)</td></tr><tr><td>Illegitimate</td><td>114 (153)</td><td>55 (74)</td><td>59 (79)</td><td>0.99 (1.33)</td></tr></table>				Total	Males	Females	Birth Rate per 1,000 pop.	Live Births	1,873 (2,048)	957 (1,041)	916 (1,007)	16.26 (17.88)	Legitimate	1,759 (1,895)	902 (967)	857 (928)	15.27 (16.55)	Illegitimate	114 (153)	55 (74)	59 (79)	0.99 (1.33)
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Legitimate	1,759 (1,895)	902 (967)	857 (928)	15.27 (16.55)																		
Illegitimate	114 (153)	55 (74)	59 (79)	0.99 (1.33)																		
Infant deaths under one year—																						
Legitimate ... ..			45	(61)																		
Illegitimate ... ..			4	(10)																		
Total ... ..			49	(71)																		
Death-rate of infants under one year per 1,000 live births—																						
Legitimate ... ..			25.58	(32.19)																		
Illegitimate ... ..			35.09	(65.36)																		
Total ... ..			26.16	(34.66)																		
Number of still-births ... ..			41	(52)																		
Rate per 1,000 births ... ..			21.42	(24.76)																		
Deaths of infants under one month			33	(45)																		
Neo-natal mortality rate ... ..			17.62	(21.97)																		
Deaths—net ... ..			1,260	(1,311)																		
Rate per 1,000 population ... ..			10.93	(11.45)																		
Number of marriages ... ..			1,025	(1,105)																		
Number of women dying in or in con- sequence of child-birth—																						
From sepsis ... ..			—	(2)																		
From other causes... ..			1	(2)																		
Total ... ..			1	(4)																		
Maternal mortality rate ... ..			0.52	(1.9)																		
Deaths from cancer (all ages) ... ..			205	(228)																		
Deaths from measles (all ages) ... ..			1	(—)																		

Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	—	(2)
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	2	(7)
Tuberculosis deaths—		
Pulmonary ... ..	34	(50)
Non-pulmonary ... ..	5	(12)
All forms ... ..	39	(62)
Tuberculosis death-rate (per 1,000 of population)		
Pulmonary, ... ..	0.29	(0.43)
Non-pulmonary ... ..	0.04	(0.10)
All forms ... ..	0.34	(0.54)

### Comparison of Vital Statistics for Reading with those for other Areas

	Reading	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs & Great Towns (including London)
	(1)	(2)	(3)
<b>Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population—</b>			
<i>Births—</i>			
Live Births ... ..	16.26	16.7	18.7
Still Births ... ..	.36	.39	.47
<i>Deaths—</i>			
All Causes ... ..	10.9	11.7	12.5
Whooping Cough ... ..	—	.01	.02
Tuberculosis ... ..	.34	.45	.52
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis ... ..	.05	.01	.02
Pneumonia ... ..	.57	.51	.56
<i>Notifications (corrected)—</i>			
Scarlet Fever ... ..	1.34	1.63	1.72
Whooping Cough ... ..	1.87	2.39	2.44
Diphtheria ... ..	—	.04	.05
Measles ... ..	6.50	8.95	8.91
Pneumonia ... ..	.25	.80	.91
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	.30	.13	.13
Acute Polioencephalitis ... ..	.04	.01	.01
Food Poisoning ... ..	.02	.14	.16
<b>Rates per 1,000 Live Births—</b>			
<i>Deaths—</i>			
All causes under 1 year of age	26	32	37
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age ... ..	1.1	3.0	3.8
<b>Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births—</b>			
<i>Notifications (Corrected)—</i>			
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia ...	2.61	6.31	8.14
<b>Maternal Mortality—Rates per 1,000 Total Births—</b>			
Abortion with Sepsis ... ..	—	.11	—
Abortion without Sepsis ... ..	—	.05	—
Puerperal Infection ... ..	—	.11	—
Other Maternal Causes ... ..	.52	.71	—

# CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH

CAUSES OF DEATH		All ages	0-1	1-5	5-15	15-45	45-65	65 and upwards
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	2	-	-	-	2	-	-
Scarlet Fever	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	34	-	-	-	16	14	4
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	5	1	-	-	2	2	-
Syphilitic Diseases	...	8	-	-	-	1	3	4
Influenza	...	7	1	1	-	1	1	3
Measles	...	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	...	6	1	-	1	3	1	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Cancer (all forms)	...	205	-	1	-	11	63	130
Diabetes	...	9	-	-	-	-	2	7
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	150	-	-	-	2	30	118
Heart Disease	...	424	-	-	1	5	79	339
Other circulatory Diseases	...	43	-	-	-	1	3	39
Bronchitis	...	52	-	1	-	-	9	42
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	66	6	1	-	-	13	46
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	15	-	-	-	1	6	8
Ulcer of Stomach or duodenum	...	13	-	-	-	1	6	6
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
Appendicitis	...	3	-	-	1	1	1	-
Other Digestive Diseases	...	23	3	2	-	2	3	13
Nephritis	...	23	-	1	-	3	3	16
Puerperal Sepsis	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Maternal Causes	...	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Premature Birth	...	10	10	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital Debility, Malformations, etc.	...	23	19	-	-	2	1	1
Suicide	...	7	-	-	-	4	1	2
Road Accidents	...	9	-	-	-	3	4	2
Other Violent Causes	...	26	4	1	1	4	3	13
All Other Causes	...	92	2	2	4	5	13	66
Totals		1260	49	11	8	71	262	859

# INFANT MORTALITY, 1949

(CAUSES OF DEATH under one year)										
Causes of Death	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 month and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total under 1 year
Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Anterior Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Influenza ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Bronchitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	5
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Other Digestive Diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	3
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc. ...	27	1	2	1	31	—	1	1	1	34
Other Causes ...	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	3
Totals	29	1	2	1	33	4	6	3	3	49

5 of the deaths were of illegitimate children.



# SUMMARY OF INFANT AND MATERNAL MORTALITY RATES SINCE 1900

Year	Population	No. of Births	Birth-rate per 1,000 Living	No. of Infant Deaths	Infant Mortality	Maternal Mortality			Total No. of Deaths	Death-rate per 1,000 Living
						Sepsis	Others	Rate per 1,000 Births		
1900	71,225	1,888	26.51	272	144.1	—	—	—	1,032	14.49
1901	72,551	1,967	27.11	261	132.7	3	3	3.05	1,054	14.53
1902	73,901	1,896	25.66	227	119.7	2	—	1.09	1,003	13.57
1903	75,277	2,031	26.98	246	121.1	3	2	2.46	973	12.92
1904	76,678	1,994	26.00	262	131.4	2	5	3.59	1,065	13.89
1905	78,105	1,986	25.43	236	118.8	3	4	3.6	1,022	13.08
1906	79,559	1,882	23.66	217	115.3	4	6	5.3	1,016	12.77
1907	81,040	1,806	22.28	164	90.8	4	8	6.6	983	12.13
1908	82,549	1,847	22.37	182	98.5	1	4	2.7	963	11.66
1909	84,085	1,744	20.74	166	95.2	4	4	4.6	962	11.44
1910	84,355	1,673	19.83	126	75.3	3	4	4.2	844	10.00
1911	87,693	1,605	21.32	164	102.2	5	3	4.9	911	12.10
1912	88,603	1,896	21.40	160	84.4	3	3	3.2	1,015	11.45
1913	89,339	1,871	20.94	150	80.2	4	4	4.3	1,035	11.58
1914	90,083	1,819	20.19	161	88.5	1	6	3.9	1,082	12.01
1915	86,299	1,792	19.89	147	82.0	3	3	3.4	1,199	13.89
1916	92,563	1,794	19.38	145	80.8	4	—	2.2	1,230	14.46
1917	91,936	1,420	15.44	140	98.6	3	4	4.9	1,172	14.21
1918	92,320	1,582	17.14	115	72.7	3	4	4.4	1,317	15.98
1919	95,175	1,593	16.7	109	68.4	1	3	2.5	1,091	11.9
1920	95,387	2,278	24.8	152	66.7	4	7	3.9	1,016	11.04
1921	92,274	1,892	20.4	114	60.2	—	1	0.5	1,069	10.7
1922	92,990	1,729	18.5	109	63.04	—	2	1.16	1,135	12.2
1923	93,160	1,705	18.3	88	51.6	3	8	6.4	1,036	11.12
1924	93,680	1,603	17.1	86	53.6	—	5	3.1	1,006	10.7
1925	93,910	1,509	16.07	85	56.3	2	5	4.6	1,042	11.12
1926	93,290	1,642	17.6	83	50.5	4	1	3.0	1,139	12.2
1927	94,890	1,456	15.3	62	42.5	1	2	2.0	1,165	12.3
1928	97,190	1,489	15.48	80	53.6	4	6	6.7	1,147	11.9
1929	97,050	1,446	14.9	75	50.5	1	3	2.8	1,373	14.1
1930	97,050	1,404	14.4	77	54.8	—	3	2.1	1,114	11.4
1931	97,149	1,477	15.1	66	44.6	1	3	2.7	1,169	12.0
1932	97,636	1,396	14.3	77	55.2	1	5	4.29	1,253	12.8
1933	98,950	1,380	13.9	87	63.0	1	4	2.9	1,370	13.6
1934	99,250	1,414	14.25	58	41.02	3	1	2.8	1,183	11.9
1935	99,600	1,475	14.8	76	51.5	2	1	1.9	1,230	12.3
1936	100,000	1,436	14.3	73	51.0	1	2	2.1	1,275	12.8
1937	100,200	1,581	15.8	79	49.7	—	3	1.8	1,306	13.0
1938	100,400	1,582	15.7	60	39.9	1	6	4.4	1,259	12.5
1939	100,600	1,564	15.5	79	50.5	1	5	3.9	1,327	13.2
1940	114,600	1,725	15.0	88	51.0	—	1	0.5	1,606	14.1
1941	124,800	1,913	15.3	113	59.0	2	5	3.7	1,532	12.2
1942	117,800	1,833	15.5	70	38.2	1	1	1.1	1,298	11.0
1943	113,000	1,925	17.03	83	43.1	1	4	2.6	1,385	12.2
1944	111,340	2,139	19.2	87	40.7	—	4	1.8	1,311	12.0
1945	108,830	2,066	18.8	98	47.4	1	3	1.9	1,400	12.8
1946	111,340	2,226	20.0	98	44.0	—	2	0.89	1,382	12.4
1947	112,960	2,533	22.4	89	35.1	—	2	0.77	1,395	12.3
1948	114,500	2,100	17.88	71	34.6	2	2	1.9	1,311	11.45
1949	115,500	1,873	16.26	47	26.2	—	1	0.52	1,260	10.93

**Employment.** I am indebted to the Manager of the Employment Exchange for the following information :—

“(A)—The main industries carried on in the Reading Employment Exchange area are :—

- (1) Distributive trades
- (2) National and Local Government
- (3) Transport (rail and road)
- (4) Professional services (including education)
- (5) Food and drink industries (chiefly biscuit manufacture)
- (6) Building and civil engineering .
- (7) Agriculture and horticulture
- (8) Engineering
- (9) Vehicle manufacture and repair (including aircraft)

(B)—The number of persons registered for employment at Reading Employment Exchange at the end of each quarter during 1949 was as follows :—

		M.	W.	B.	G.	Total
March	...	554	154	3	4	715
June	...	378	515*	—	—	893
September	...	389	109	4	5	507
December	...	535	109	1	—	645

\*These figures include about 300 women who registered for seasonal employment only.”

# NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946

## SECTION 21—PROVISION OF HEALTH CENTRE

No action has been taken in respect of the provision of Health Centres under the above section.

## SECTION 22—CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

There have been no significant alterations in these arrangements during 1949.

**Infant Welfare Clinics.** There are 8 infant welfare clinics which have a total of 14 sessions per week. All clinics were well attended.

The medical staff comprises 2 general practitioners (part-time) and 2 assistant medical officers (whole time). The following gives a summary of the attendance at the clinics during 1949 :—

Centre	No. of Sessions	New Attendances		Re-attendances	Average Attendances
		Under 1 year of age	Over 1 year of age		
Star Lane, London Street, Reading—					
Wednesday ... ..	52	186	17	4,600	92
Friday ... ..	51	98	9	2,445	50
Elm Park Hall, Oxford Rd., Reading—					
Tuesday Morning ... ..	51	69	4	2,468	50
Tuesday Afternoon ... ..	51	116	9	3,968	80
Thursday Afternoon ... ..	52	95	9	3,437	68
Park Institute, Wokingham Road, Reading—					
Monday ... ..	50	89	16	4,079	84
Friday ... ..	49	96	7	4,200	88
West Memorial Institute, Caversham					
Tuesday ... ..	51	77	14	2,496	51
Thursday... ..	51	96	20	2,717	56
Tilehurst Village Hall, Tilehurst ...	48	78	15	2,627	57
Whitley Clinic—					
Wednesday ... ..	52	136	10	3,918	78
Friday ... ..	51	122	19	3,552	72
St. Mary Magdalen, Oxford Road ...	50	83	12	2,457	51
Shinfield, Tyndale Free Church ...	51	91	1	2,361	48
Totals	710	1,432	162	45,325	66



**Day Nurseries.** There are 2 day nurseries in the town which provide accommodation for ninety children up to the age of 5 years; both nurseries are accommodated in adapted private houses.

There has been nothing special to report in connection with the administration of these 2 nurseries during the year; both have been used to capacity.

**Daily average attendance for each month of the year, 1949. 0-5 years (Monday to Friday)—**

Nursery	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
Holybrook House ...	33	28	33	36	37	37	32	27	32	36	37	36	404
Victoria Square ...	45	*26	*42	48	51	49	43	33	44	45	46	42	514
	78	54	75	84	88	86	75	60	76	81	83	78	918

\*12 cases of Measles, 14 cases of Measles and Chicken-pox

The following details relate to the position as at 31st December, 1949 :—

No. of Approved Places		No. of children on the register at the end of the year		Average daily attendance for year	
0-2	2-5	0-2	2-5	0-2	2-5
40	50	34	53	29	47

**Care of Premature Infants.** It was not possible to obtain a suitable applicant for the post of premature baby nurse, therefore the arrangements for this service remain substantially as they were in previous years.

**Dental Care of Expectant Mothers and Young Children.** This work is carried out by the school dental officers, but owing to shortage of staff the service has had to be restricted.

Mr. J. Campbell, L.D.S. reports as follows :—

“ This service could be greatly expanded if a sufficient number of dental officers were available, but unfortunately, has to be curtailed at present.

The number of pre-school children, brought for treatment, has increased slightly this year, 1948 (210), 1949 (292). This is a very important part of the service and it is regrettable that more time cannot be devoted to this section.



(a) Numbers provided with dental care

	Examined	Needing treatment	Treated	Made Dentally Fit
Expectant and Nursing Mothers ...	103	103	103	51
Children under 5 ... ..	292	292	292	188

(b) Forms of dental treatment provided

	Extractions	Anaesthetics		Fillings	Scalings or Scaling and Gum Treatment	Silver Nitrate Treatment	Dressings	Radio- graphs	Dentures provided	
		Local	General						Complete	Partial
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	170	25	41	67	37	—	83	—	24	11
Children under 5	225	13	94	164	4	209	103	—	—	—

Expectant and nursing mothers continue to request treatment, but under the present circumstances, only really urgent cases could be treated.

Supply of artificial dentures :—This work is carried out by the school dental officers. At present, the services of a part-time dental technician are available.

The facilities for X-ray are the same as for the school dental service, i.e., The X-ray Dept., Battle Hospital."

The appended tables denote the work performed during the year :—

**Maternity and Child Welfare, 1949**  
**Dental Treatment**

							Pre-school	Ante-and Post-Natal
Inspections	...	...	...	...	...		292	103
Treated	...	...	...	...	...		292	103
Attendances	...	...	...	...	...		509	307
Extractions	...	...	...	...	...		225	170
Local Anaesthetics		...	...	...	...		13	25
General	„	...	...	...	...		94	41
Fillings	...	...	...	...	...		164	67
Scalings	...	...	...	...	...		4	37
Silver Nitrate	...	...	...	...	...		209	—
Dressings	...	...	...	...	...		103	83
X-rays	...	...	...	...	...		—	—
Full Dentures	...	...	...	...	...		—	24
Part Dentures	...	...	...	...	...		—	11
Discharged	...	...	...	...	...		188	51

**Ante-Natal Clinics.** There are two municipal ante-natal clinics with a total of four sessions per week. In addition, a number of expectant mothers who reside in the western end of the town attend the ante-natal clinic which is held at Battle Hospital. The Queen Victoria Institute hold one ante-natal clinic per week, using one of the municipal clinic premises.

**Post-Natal Clinics.** There are no special sessions for post-natal work ; this work is carried out at the end of the ante-natal sessions under the arrangements outlined above.

The following is a record of the number of mothers attending ante-natal and post-natal clinics and the total number of attendances during the year :—

Clinic	Number of sessions held	New patients	Re-attendances	Post-natal
Star Lane ... ..	154	340	2,043	141
Whitley ... ..	111	240	1,667	53
Queen Victoria Institute	50	114	681	—*

\* This is carried out in patient's own home

During the year we commenced the practice of routine testing of all mothers for Rhesus factor, Haemoglobin estimation and Kahn Test and Blood Group. Altogether 353 tests were carried out.

After consultation with the general practitioners a reasonably satisfactory method of co-operation has been evolved. Each doctor is notified of the attendance of one of his patients at one of the ante-natal clinics and he is given the opportunity of carrying out ante-natal supervision on his own behalf; alternatively the clinic medical officer will carry out ante-natal supervision on behalf of the general practitioner, whether the patient is to be confined at her own home or in one of the two general practitioner maternity homes.

**Women's Advisory Clinic.** This clinic is organised by a voluntary association who use the Star Lane clinic premises. Sessions are held twice a month.

Total number of new attendances 363

Total attendances ... 1,766

Since the clinic was first instituted 2,252 women have attended for advice.

**Care of Unmarried Mothers and their Children.** This work continues to be carried out in co-operation with the Bradfield and Reading Association for Moral Welfare. During the year the Corporation accepted responsibility for 7 unmarried mothers.

**National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.** Mr. Tilley reports as follows :—" Cases dealt with 274, these were classified as follows :—Neglect, 127; advice sought, 118; ill-treatment, 25; assault, 2; immoral surroundings, 2. They involved the welfare of 627 children. 1,364 supervision visits were made in connection with the cases, and in addition 1,822 miscellaneous visits were made. 3 cases were prosecuted and 14 were dealt with in the Juvenile Court."

## SECTION 23—MIDWIFERY

The arrangements where the Corporation employs five municipal midwives directly and six midwives by an agency agreement with the Queen Victoria Institute has continued to work satisfactorily.

All midwives are now trained to administer gas and air analgesia and the supply of machines is adequate.

The trend of midwifery practice in Reading is shown by the following table :—

Year	Total Confinements	Domiciliary Confinements	Percentage of Total
1938	1,552	1,000	64.4
1939	1,564	897	57.7
1940	1,725	931	54.0
1941	1,913	931	49.0
1942	1,833	858	46.8
1943	1,925	907	47.0
1944	2,139	925	43.2
1945	2,066	806	39.0
1946	2,226	791	35.5
1947	2,250	765	34.0
1948	2,100	645	30.7
1949	1,855	603	32.5

I am pleased to report a successful scheme of co-operation with the Hospital Bed Bureau whereby all applications for admission to the hospital or general practitioner maternity homes on purely social grounds were investigated by a senior member of my staff and an appropriate recommendation made. By this means we were able to ensure that the best use was made of the available maternity beds.

At the beginning of the year, pressure on the beds was acute but the position was much eased as the birth-rate decreased towards the end of the year.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the help given by the hospital authorities and to report that arrangements were made for the institutional confinement of every case which was recommended by my department.



The following table gives particulars of Midwives practising in Reading on December 31st, 1949 :—

	Domiciliary Midwives	Midwives in Institutions	Total
(a) Midwives employed by the Authority	5	Nil	5
(b) Midwives employed by Voluntary Organisations			
(i) Under arrangements with the Local Health Authority in pursuance of Section 23 of the National Health Service Act.	6	—	6
(ii) Otherwise (including Hospitals not transferred to the Minister under the National Health Service Act).	—	—	—
(c) Midwives employed by Hospital Management Committees or Boards of Governors under the National Health Service Act ...	—	47	47
(d) Midwives in Private Practice (including Midwives employed in Nursing Homes) ...	—	8	8
Totals	11	55	66

**Medical Aid under Section 14 (1) of The Midwives' Act, 1918.** Number of cases in which medical aid was summoned during the year under Section 14 (1) of the Midwives' Act, 1918, by a midwife :—

(a) For Domiciliary Cases—

(i) Where the medical practitioner had arranged to provide the patient with maternity medical services under the National Health Service ... 17

(ii) Others ... 22

(b) For cases in Institutions ... 229

The following table gives details of the work carried out by these midwives in the borough :—

	Domiciliary Cases		Cases in Institutions		Total	
	As Midwives (1)	As Maternity Nurses (2)	As Midwives (3)	As Maternity Nurses (4)	As Midwives (5)	As Maternity Nurses (6)
(1) Midwives employed by the Authority ...	230	45	—	—	230	45
(2) Midwives employed by Voluntary Organisations— (a) Under arrangements with the Local Health Authority in pursuance of Section 23 of the National Health Service Act ... (b) Otherwise (including Hospitals not transferred to the Minister under the National Health Service Act)... ...	248	80	—	—	248	80
(3) Midwives employed by Hospital Management Committees or Boards of Governors under the National Health Service Act ... ...	—	—	985	543	985	543
(4) Midwives in Private Practice (including Midwives employed in Nursing Homes)	—	—	88	346	88	346
Totals ...	478	125	1073	889	1551	1014

**Gas and Air Analgesia.** Adequate provision is made for this important service as will be seen from the following table.

Preliminary instruction in the use of the apparatus is given at all Municipal Ante-Natal Clinics.

(1) *Institutional Midwives*

Number of institutional midwives in practice in the area at the end of the year qualified to administer gas and air analgesia in accordance with the requirements of the Central Midwives Board :—

(a) Employed in homes and hospitals in the National Health Service	...	...	...	...	...	18	Total
(b) Employed in nursing homes or in maternity homes and hospitals not in the National Health Service						4	
						—	22

**Institutional Midwifery.** The following table shows the records of institutional midwifery at hospitals within the borough but administered by the Oxford Regional Board :—

*Dellwood—*

Number of patients delivered by midwives	...	...	313
Number of patients delivered by doctors	...	...	109
Number of cases in which medical aid was sought by midwives in cases of emergency	...	...	67
Number of infants wholly breast-fed	...	...	406
Maternal deaths	...	...	—

*Grove—*

Number of patients delivered by midwives	...	...	476
Number of patients delivered by doctors	...	...	15
Number of cases in which medical assistance was sought by the midwife in cases of emergency	...	...	158
Number of infants wholly breast-fed	...	...	413
Maternal deaths	...	...	—

*Battle Hospital—*

Number of patients delivered by midwives	...	...	170
Number of patients delivered by doctors	...	...	29
Number of infants wholly breast-fed	...	...	161
Maternal deaths	...	...	—

*Royal Berkshire Hospital—*

Number of cases delivered by doctors	...	...	390
Maternal deaths	...	...	2

During the year 58 women notified their intention to practise as midwives and 21 as maternity nurses.

It must be remembered that the above institutions deal with cases from outside the borough as well as inside the borough.



## (2)—DOMICILIARY MIDWIVES

(1)	Domiciliary Midwives employed directly by the Local Health Authority (2)	Domiciliary Midwives employed in public midwifery service under Section 23 by voluntary organisations as agents of Local Health Authority (3)	Domiciliary Midwives employed in public midwifery service under Section 23 by hospital authorities as agents of Local Health Authority (4)	Domiciliary Midwives in private practice or employed by organisations not acting as agents of Local Health Authority (5)	Total (6)
(a) Number of domiciliary midwives practising in the area at 31st Dec., 1949, who were qualified to administer gas and air analgesia in accordance with the requirements of the Central Midwives Board ... ..	5	6	—	—	11
(b) Number of sets of apparatus for the administration of gas and air in use by domiciliary midwives employed in the Authority's domiciliary midwifery service at 31st Dec., 1949 ...	6	7	—	—	13
(c) Number of cases in which gas and air was administered by midwives in domiciliary practice during the period 1st Jan., 1949 to 31st Dec., 1949 :					
(i) When acting as a midwife ...	223	230	—	—	453
(ii) When acting as a maternity nurse ... ..	10	36	—	—	46

## SECTION 24—HEALTH VISITING

Unfortunately it has not been practicable to amalgamate the Health Visiting Service with the School Health Service, but this will be done gradually as vacancies occur in the latter service.

The superintendent health visitor also acts as inspector of midwives. It has not been possible to recruit the full complement of health visitors. In addition there are two visitors who are occupied solely in tuberculosis work.

The Council has adopted a scheme of assisted training for Health Visitors and it is hoped that this will help us to recruit up to our establishment. At the end of the year there were seven whole-time and one part-time health visitors in addition to the superintendent.

The health visitors have established a sound liaison with the hospital almoners and other members of the hospital staffs and although our numbers are below establishment I am sure that this liaison has proved of benefit to the patients and to the community.

The health visitor is a most important member of the staff of a local health authority and the success or failure of many of our schemes under the National Health Service Act depends on the quality and efficiency of her work.

**Health Visiting.** The following is a summary of the work carried out by the health visiting staff during the year :—

First visits after receipt of notification	1,820
Visits to children aged 1 to 5 years ...	16,439
Re-visits to children under 1 year ...	9,027
Special visits ... ..	1,147
Visits to expectant mothers ... ..	1,044
„ „ cases of infectious disease ...	239
Total	<hr/> 29,716 <hr/>

In addition to the above, the following special visits were paid by the Superintendent Health Visitor :—

Visits to midwives ... ..	55
District supervision of nursings ...	12
Visits to nursing homes ... ..	19
„ „ Hospitals ... ..	17
„ „ Private Maternity Nurses ...	2
„ „ Nurseries ... ..	12
„ „ Premature babies ... ..	14
„ „ Chronic Sick ... ..	46
„ for still-birth enquiries ... ..	28
„ to Probation Officer ... ..	12
Miscellaneous visits ... ..	59

## SECTION 25—HOME NURSING

Home Nursing is carried out by the Queen Victoria Institute as agents for the Council. The grave shortage of staff has continued and at the moment it shows no sign of improvement. During the year the Council were able to replace five defective autocycles and to purchase two new ones ; these have been an appreciable help to the service and the provision of further new autocycles during 1950 has been a further step in the right direction.

The following table gives a summary of the work for 1949 :—  
*Report for the year of 1949 (January 1st-December 31st)*—

Number of cases on books on first day of the year	...	...	...	...	370
Number of new cases nursed during the year	...	...	...	...	2,371
Referred by—					
Patient's family doctor	...	...	...	...	1,832
Hospital	...	...	...	...	184
Patient's application	...	...	...	...	355
Classification of new cases—					
Medical	...	...	...	...	1,870
Surgical	...	...	...	...	501
Total number of general nursing visits paid during the year	...	...	...	...	92,000
Classification of discharges—					
Convalescent	...	...	...	...	970
Transferred to Hospital	...	...	...	...	288
Died	...	...	...	...	327
Relieved	...	...	...	...	768
Number of cases on the books on the last day of the year	...	...	...	...	388

(1)	Number of Home Nurses Employed at 31st Dec., 1949		Equivalent of Whole-Time Services Devoted by Home Nurses included in cols. (2) and (3) to Home Nursing	Number of Visits Paid by Home Nurses during the year	Number of Cases Attended by Home Nurses during the year
	Whole-Time on Home Nursing	Part-Time on Home Nursing			
(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	
Local Health Authority ...	—	—	—	—	—
Voluntary Organisations by Agreement with the Authority ...	Admin. 3 Queen's 9 Candidates 10	2	1	92,000	2,741



## SECTION 26—VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Immunisation against diphtheria is carried out by medical officers of the Local Health Authority at special sessions and an opportunity has been given to all general practitioners in the area to participate in the scheme as approved by the Minister.

**Immunisation.** The following table gives the position as at December 31st, 1949 :—

Age at 31/12/49 i.e. Born in Year	Under 1 1949	1 1948	2 1947	3 1946	4 1945	5-9 1940-1944	10-14 1935-1939	Total under 15
Number Immunised	119	1,091	1,626	1,419	1,309	5,545	6,417	17,526
Estimated mid-year Population 1949	9,415 =59.09 per cent immunised					15,570 =76.82 per cent immunised		

**Vaccination.** The following table gives the position as at December 31st, 1949 :—

Age at 31st Dec., 1949, i.e. born in years	Under 1 1949	1 to 4 1945 to 1948	5 to 14 1935 to 1944	15 or over Before 1935	Total
Number Vaccinated	360	100	27	106	593
Number Re-vaccinated	4	3	3	32	42

It will be seen that in Reading, as in most other areas, the number of vaccinations performed during the year has fallen to negligible proportions. The number vaccinated in 1947 (i.e., the last full year before the operation of the National Health Service Act) was 1,008.

In June we commenced a scheme of immunisation against whooping cough, either alone or in combination with immunisation against diphtheria. Although we cannot promise a degree of protection against whooping cough similar to that which we can promise against diphtheria, the number of acceptances of this form of immunisation is very high ; indeed we are almost arriving at the stage when immunisation against both diseases is the usual form of immunisation in infants. Alum Precipitated Toxoid has been the preparation used.

General Practitioners are also eligible to participate in this scheme on lines similar to those in operation for diphtheria immunisation and vaccination.

Number of children who completed a course of inoculation with Pertussis Vaccines (including alum-precipitated vaccines and vaccines combined with diphtheria prophylactic) during the year ending December 31st, 1949:—

Age at Date of Final Injection			Total
Under 1 year	1-4 years	5-14 years	
262	557	73	892

## SECTION 27—AMBULANCE SERVICE

The bulk of the work in connection with the ambulance service is carried out from the Corporation's Ambulance Depot, under the supervision of the Transport Manager. At the end of the year there were five vehicles in this branch of the service, plus one ambulance stationed at the Isolation Hospital. The St. John Ambulance Brigade provides one ambulance by which they carry out certain duties as agents of the Corporation. The British Red Cross Society also undertake certain ambulance journeys at the request of the Corporation. This service ranks as a supplementary ambulance service.

During the year we acquired two new ambulance vehicles.

The hospital car service is an integral part of the ambulance service and is operated by a combined organisation of the British Red Cross Society, St. John Ambulance Brigade and the Women's Voluntary Service. By the end of the year there were 48 drivers available for this work.

A special word of thanks is due to the drivers and organisers of the Hospital Car Service for the highly satisfactory manner in which they have carried out their duties.

Arrangements were made for transport of suitable cases by means of the British Railways Ambulance Service and it is a pleasure to record the efficiency of this service and co-operation we have received during the year.

A feature of the ambulance service has been the steady increase in the number of calls made during the year. Towards the end of the year a conference was held to discuss means of checking any possible abuses of this service; I think that it is a fair summary to state that all the people concerned are alive to the possibility of abuse and use all reasonable means to prevent it. Doctors in the hospital service and in general

practice have expressed their appreciation of the efficiency of the ambulance service in Reading and its great value to helping with a rapid turnover of hospital beds and the efficient treatment of patients at the out-patient departments.

Some people may consider that the financial responsibility for this service might more appropriately rest with the Hospital Management Committees, but this is not possible under the present National Health Service Act. It must be remembered that any scheme which can reduce the stay of patients in hospital is to be encouraged and that the saving must be offset against the possible increased cost of the ambulance service.

The following table gives a summary of the work done during 1949 :—

	No of vehicles at 31/12/49	Total No. of calls during year	Total No. of patients carried during the year	No. of accidents and emergency calls	Total mileage
Directly provided by the Authority	Ambulances 6 Cars —	8,000	8,224	963	73,464
Agency Services	Ambulances 1 Cars —	763	1,840	—	11,584
Supplementary Services	Ambulances 1	34	34	—	3,836
	Cars 48	5,962	6,213	—	88,332

## SECTION 28—PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

**Tuberculosis.** The Reading Tuberculosis Care Association continued to act as the agent of the Local Health Authority in this work. The Secretary reports as follows :—

“ During the twelve months covered by this Report, the Executive Committee have considered over two hundred requests for assistance. These have covered a wide variety of subjects, such as providing patients with clothing, bedding, etc., payment of domestic help fees, coverage of hire-purchase payments, the supply of wireless equipment, provision of rail fares for relatives to visit patients in sanatoria, maintaining patients in training settlements, the arranging and payment of holiday accommodation for recommended patients. In addition to these, by



far the greater number of applications have been concerned with the grant of free milk.

During the year, sixty patients nominated by the Tuberculosis Visitors (Miss M. H. B. Ward and Mrs. O. Cliff) were the recipients of a parcel of groceries.

Some of the costs of assistance 'in kind' are usually met by grants from the Reading Corporation, provided that the patient's income is below certain scale limits. The impossibility of solving all problems and alleviating distress by the application of fixed 'assistance scales' cannot be over-emphasised, and, where such cases present hardship, the Committee have assisted out of their own voluntary funds. From the varied types of application received, it will be readily observed that in some cases the need cannot be met other than by a cash grant. In such circumstances, the Corporation are not responsible and such grants have to be met out of the Association's voluntary funds—raised by means of subscriptions and donations. Even under so comprehensive a service as the one we have at present, the need for voluntary funds to carry on the work among tuberculous patients is as high as, or higher than, it has ever been.

Miss L. D. Saunders has continued her work as Occupational Therapist. In addition to attending the Reading Chest Clinic, she has made numerous visits to the homes of patients for the purpose of instruction, and, as a result, some 600 articles (leather handbags, gloves, rugs, embroideries, knitted goods, etc.) have been completed.

The volume of work undertaken by the Department continues to grow—so much so that the capital for the purchase of materials has had to be more than doubled during the past year.

The Executive Committee hope that it may soon be possible to secure premises as a work-room, thus allowing for better facilities where additional patients can be seen and receive instruction."

**Provision of Nursing Equipment and Apparatus.** Patients who were being attended by the Queen's Nurses were supplied with nursing requisites on loan. In addition 15 applications from hospitals were accepted.

**Holiday Convalescence.** During the year 10 patients with three children were sent away for periods of convalescence under the Council's scheme; repayment was made in accordance with an income scale.

## **SECTION 29—PROVISION OF HOME HELPS**

Up to September 30th the Home Help Scheme was administered on behalf of the Council by the Women's Voluntary Service; after that date it was administered directly by the Council.

The demands for this service have increased steadily and it has now become an established item of the social services of the town. A great many of the people who are helped are elderly people; indeed the condition of some of these elderly people might well be pathetic if it were not for the regular visits of the Home Help.

The following table gives a summary of the service during the year:—

Number of Helps employed during				
the week ending	...	...	8/1/49	1/1/50
Part-time	...	...	63	91
Full-time	...	...	3	3
Number of householders helped				
during week ending	...	...	8/1/49	1/1/50
Part-time	...	...	149	269
Classification of reasons for help				
sought during weeks ending	...	...	29/1/49	1/1/50
(a) Old age, infirmity and				
chronic sickness...	...	...	7	9
(b) Acute sickness and conval-				
escence	...	...	26	16
(c) Maternity cases	...	...	10	13
(d) Miscellaneous	...	...	1	—

Number of hours worked by part-time and full-time workers during week ending :—

8/1/49	1066 $\frac{1}{4}$	11/12/49	1768 $\frac{1}{4}$
15/1/49	1170 $\frac{1}{2}$	18/12/49	1716 $\frac{1}{2}$
22/1/49	1215 $\frac{1}{4}$	25/12/49	1736
29/1/49	1239 $\frac{1}{4}$	1/ 1/50	903 $\frac{3}{4}$

## SECTIONS 50 AND 51—MENTAL WELFARE

The Mental Welfare Services are administered by a Mental Health Sub-Committee which meets monthly.

At the end of the year there was an authorised officer (with appropriate relief), one mental deficiency visitor and one assistant, one supervisor of the occupation centre with appropriate assistants. The Medical Officer of Health and his deputy act as medical officers for this work.

So far there are no joint appointments with the Regional Hospital Board, although it is hoped that there will be a joint appointment of psychiatric social worker.

The Borough Mental Deficiency Officer has undertaken duties of supervision and the furnishing of reports to hospitals and other local health authorities. No duties have been delegated to voluntary associations.

So far no arrangements have been initiated for the training of Mental Health workers who will subsequently become members of the staff of the department.

**Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-1938.** As in previous years the chief difficulty has been the shortage of institutional accommodation for mental defectives.

Particulars of Mental Defectives as on December, 31st 1949. Cases "subject to be dealt with" :—

	M.	F.	Total
In an Institution—Borocourt, 89 ; Brentry Colony, Bristol, 5 ; Royal Earlswood, Surrey, 1 ; St. Mary's Home, Alton, 1 ; Wayland House, Berks, 1 ; Botley's Park, Surrey, 4 ; Battle Hospital, 8 ; Manor House, Aylesbury, 2 ; Normansfield, Teddington, 1 ; Pewsey Colony, Pewsey, 5 ...	57	60	117
On Licence from Institution—Employed away from home, 9 ; employed living at home, 1 ; in hospital, 1 ; at home not employed, 3 ...	7	7	14
Under Guardianship—Maintained by this Authority, 16 ; in employment, 2 ; old age pensioner, 1 ...	10	9	19
Under Statutory Supervision ...	88	74	162
Of whom "awaiting removal to Institution" ...	7	6	13
In State Institutions ...	7	3	10
Granted Licence from Institutions during 1949 ...	3	2	5
On Licence from Guardianship ...	2	—	2
Returned from Licence to Institutions during 1949...	—	1	1
Died during 1949 ...	2	—	2
Left the district during 1949 ...	2	1	3
Discharged from Orders during 1949 ...	1	5	6
Discontinued from Supervision ...	1	1	2
Supervised on behalf of other Authorities ...	—	2	2
Cases not at present "subject to be dealt with" for whom the Local Authority may subsequently become liable ...	2	4	6
Under Friendly Supervision ...	47	34	81
<i>Number of Cases ascertained during 1949 :—</i>			
1. Cases reported by Local Education Authorities (Section 57, Education Act, 1944) :—			
(a) Under Section 57 (3) ...	10	5	15
(b) Under Section 57 (5) on leaving special schools ...	2	3	5
2. Other ascertained defectives reported during 1949 and found to be "subject to be dealt with" ...	6	2	8
Total number of cases reported during the year ...	18	10	28



**Occupation Centre.** Miss Barkas, the Supervisor, reports as follows :—"Classes have been held daily during the school terms from Mondays to Fridays.

*Hours of attendance.* Mondays, 9.45 a.m.-4.30 p.m. ; Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, 9.45 a.m.-4 p.m. ; Fridays, 9.45 a.m.-4.30 p.m.

*Numbers attending.* The number of defectives on the register on December 31st, were as follows :—

From the Borough—				Males	Females
Full-time	...	...	...	26	33
Part-time	...	...	...	4	2
From Berks County Council—					
Full-time	...	...	...	1	1
From Oxfordshire County Council					
Full-time	...	...	...	1	—
				—	—
				32	36
				—	—
				Total—68	

*Home Teaching*—1

*Staff.* During the year there have been the following alterations and additions to the staff :—

- (a) Mr. H. G. Morgan replaced Mr. F. Josey as Wood Work Instructor on April 27th.
- (b) Miss D. Morgan replaced Miss Schiller as Guide Attendant May 30th.
- (c) Mr. K. Parris, Diploma N.A.M.H., commenced his duties as Assistant Supervisor of the Male Defectives on September 1st.

*Use of School Medical and Dental Services.* We have been grateful for the services of the School Clinic for dental and other necessary treatments.

*Transport.* The two special buses have been in operation during the year collecting defectives from the following districts :

- (a) Whitley, Basingstoke Road, Southampton Street
- (b) Caversham Road and Oxford Road.

Free bus tickets have been issued to those defectives not requiring special escort.

*Meals.* By arrangement with the School Meals Service a mid-day meal has been served daily to defectives and to staff on duty, the parents or guardians of the defectives contributing 5d. towards the total cost of 1/- per meal. In cases of financial difficulties the meals have been provided free.

*Milk.* Milk has been supplied to the children under the 'Milk for Schools Scheme.'

*Curriculum.* Subjects taught include the following :—

- (a) Some religious instruction
- (b) Handicrafts planned to meet the requirements of each grade
- (c) Sense training
- (d) Speech training and singing
- (e) Simple domestic duties
- (f) Action games, folk dancing, P.T. and other physical activities
- (g) Gardening
- (h) Woodwork
- (i) Boot repairing under the direction of expert instructors.

*Other Activities.* The Guild of the Brave have held their monthly meetings at The Beeches during term time. Ten of our defectives are enrolled members.

*Students.* This year again we have been pleased to accept students from the N.A.M.H.

*Open Day.* We held our Open Day and Annual Sale of Work at St. John's Hall to which members of the Mental Welfare Committee, parents and friends were invited. Many of the defectives of all grades took part in a programme of physical activities while others demonstrated their handwork, e.g., rug making, stool seating and netting.

*Christmas Party.* This annual event again took place at the Town Hall and was a great success."

**Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, 1890-1930.** Mr. House, Authorised Officer, reports as follows :—" During the year under review the following admissions have been effected to the Fair Mile Hospital, Wallingford :—

*Mental Treatment Act, 1930—*

			Male	Female
Section 1 (Voluntary)	91 patients	... ..	30	61
Section 5 (Temporary)	3 patients	... ..	1	2

*Lunacy Act, 1890—*

Section 16 (Certified)	45 patients	... ..	17	28
Section 20 (Three-day order)	1 patient	... ..	—	1
(This order was subsequently extended for a further period of fourteen days under Section 21A)				
Section 21 (Fourteen-day order)	1 patient		—	1

The number of persons examined by a Justice, but no orders made total 8—Male, 2 ; Female, 6.

The following have left Fair Mile Hospital :—

		Male	Female
<i>Voluntary and Temporary</i>	78 patients ... ..	30	48
<i>Certified</i>	... .. 34 patients ... ..	16	18

Prior to their discharge, 19 patients—Male, 10 ; Female, 9—left on trial for varying periods.

*Deaths.* During the year 15 patients—Male, 7 ; Female, 8—died in the hospital.

Admissions to other hospitals have numbered 3 voluntary patients (all male), 1 of whom left after recovery.

Attention is drawn to the fact that of the 47 persons dealt with under the Lunacy Act, 21 were aged 70 years or over.

The policy of visiting all notified cases before initiating any proceedings has been continued, and it is satisfactory to report that a number of patients have been persuaded to undergo treatment for mental illness, rendering certification unnecessary.

During the past year, this policy has been gradually extended, and domiciliary visits have been made to all persons known to be mentally unstable and to patients discharged from mental hospitals. Primarily, these persons are visited within 10 to 14 days of leaving hospital, and follow-up visits are undertaken where this is considered necessary or is particularly requested by the patients themselves or their relatives.

It has long been appreciated that there is a need in every community for what has been termed a 'preventive service.' Domestic or occupational difficulties are not always managed adequately by the neurotic or the mentally backward ; and assistance given at an early stage will often prevent a development of emotional disturbance severe enough to require medical care.

The work involved is in the nature of advice and 'counselling,' together with an appropriate adjustment of environment, when that is possible. This has been appreciated by the patients concerned, and much valuable work of this kind has been achieved through the development of good relationships with voluntary and local authority social services and a large variety of agencies, including Ministry of Labour Employment Officers, National Assistance Officers, Probation Officers and the like.

There has been a growing tendency for the public to use the authorised officer as a guide and adviser in problems arising out of mental illness. A steady increase in the number of persons attending the Welfare Office for this purpose has been noted."



## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following table gives particulars of the notification of infectious disease received during the year. It is satisfactory to report that there were no cases of diphtheria.

**Anterior Poliomyelitis.** The hot dry summer of 1947 was associated with an increase in the number of cases of poliomyelitis and an even greater number was recorded in 1949 when the weather was exceptionally hot and dry.

The first case was notified at the end of June and subsequent cases as follows :—

July	...	4 cases
August	...	12 „
September		7 „
October		13 „
November		3 „

Altogether there were five deaths, one of these being certified as a case of polioencephalitis. Fourteen cases showed no sign of paralysis and twenty-six (including the fatal cases) were paralytic. It is not yet possible to state the number of cases in which the paralysis is likely to be permanent.

The Department co-operated with the Ministry of Health in an investigation of each case but one must admit that nothing was found which added to our knowledge of the reason for the increase in incidence in this disease or to its method of spread.



CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1949, CLASSIFIED IN AGE GROUPS

Notifiable diseases	Number of cases notified										Notified cases removed to Isolation Hospital	Total deaths in Isolation Hospital
	Age groups											
	At all ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 3 years	3 and under 5 years	5 and under 10 years	10 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and over		
Scarlet Fever	154	—	12	26	82	19	6	9	—	—	40	—
Whooping Cough	216	26	56	69	63	2	—	—	—	—	25	—
Diphtheria (including membranous croup)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	749	28	235	227	230	17	6	6	—	—	16	1
Acute pneumonia (primary or influenzal)	29	2	4	3	4	—	2	3	7	4	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	35	2	6	4	8	6	5	4	—	—	—	—
Acute Polioencephalitis	5	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	3	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fevers (excluding paratyphoid)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	9	—	1	—	—	—	—	4	2	2	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cholera	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Plague	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhus Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Relapsing Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	130	1	1	—	3	7	26	56	30	6	153	3
Tuberculosis, other forms	9	1	—	1	2	—	2	2	1	—	—	—
Totals	1350	63	316	331	394	52	49	92	41	12	234	4



**Tuberculosis.** The sub-joined table shows the number of notifications and deaths due to tuberculosis since 1938. It is pleasing to record a decline in both figures ; the decline in the number of cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis is remarkable.

Year	No. of cases notified		Notification Rate per 100,000 of Population		No. of Deaths		Death Rate per 1,000 of Population		Population
	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary	
1928-37 Average	117	22	—	—	76	15	0.76	0.15	—
1938	91	31	90.63	30.87	58	6	0.58	0.05	100,400
1939	95	40	94.43	39.76	52	12	0.50	0.10	100,600
1940	117	30	102.09	26.18	74	18	0.66	0.16	114,600
1941	137	50	109.77	40.06	68	16	0.54	0.13	124,800
1942	186	40	157.89	33.95	60	10	0.51	0.08	117,800
1943	185	30	163.71	26.54	57	13	0.51	0.11	113,000
1944	135	29	121.25	26.04	55	14	0.49	0.13	111,340
1945	119	16	109.34	14.69	60	12	0.55	0.11	108,830
1946	152	25	136.51	22.49	73	11	0.65	0.09	111,340
1947	168	27	148.72	23.90	70	6	0.62	0.05	112,960
1948	132	24	115.28	20.92	50	12	0.43	0.10	114,500
1949	130	9	112.65	7.80	35	6	0.30	0.05	115,400

**Venereal Disease.** Patients with venereal disease in Reading are treated at the clinic at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, which also serves a large area of the surrounding countryside.

The following are details of patients from Reading who attended for the first time during 1949 :—

Syphilis	...	...	13
Gonorrhoea	...	...	22
Non-venereal conditions			116
			—
			151
			—



## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

**Water.** Mr. O. Kean, M.I.C.E., M.I.Mech.E., M.I.W.E., Water Engineer, has been good enough to supply the following information :—

“ (i) The water supply of the area and of its several parts has been entirely satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

(ii) Bacteriological and chemical examinations are made by the Counties Public Health Laboratories of samples of water taken from the river and from the various pumping and filtration works at the following regular intervals :—

Fobney Pumping and Filtration Works—River Water

1—Raw river water ... monthly (full bact. and chemical)

2—After filtration ... monthly (full bact. and chemical)

3—After filtration and  
chlorination ... monthly (full bact.)

ditto ... weekly (partial bact.)

Southcote Pumping and Filtration Works—River and Borehole water

1—After filtration and  
chlorination ... monthly (full bact. and chemical)

ditto ... weekly (partial bact.)

Pangbourne Pumping Station—Borehole water

1—Before chlorination ... weekly (full bact. and chemical)\*

2—After chlorination ... monthly (full bact. and chemical)

ditto ... weekly (partial bact.)

Bath Road Reservoir

1—Water from outlet main weekly (full bact.)

ditto ... monthly (chemical)

The following tabulation shows the number of samples examined during the year under review, the source, stage of treatment and type of examination :—

Source	Type of Water	Number of samples taken		
		Full Bact.	Partial Bact.	Chemical
Fobney Works ...	Raw river water ...	12	—	12
„ „ ...	Final filtered : unchlorinated	12	—	12
„ „ ...	„ „ chlorinated	12	40	—
Southcote Works	„ „ „	12	40	12
Pangbourne Works	Unchlorinated	27	—	27
„ „	Final chlorinated	15	52	17
Bath Road Reservoir	Final filtered, chlorinated, bulked ...	52	—	12
Domestic Tap	As supplied to consumers	1	—	1
	Totals ...	143	132	93

\* As from June, 1949.

Since November 1948, Nos. 1, 2 and 3 boreholes at Pangbourne have been interconnected by headings at about 80-ft. below ground level, and the quality and characteristics of water from each of the boreholes are therefore substantially the same.

*Results of Examinations of Water.* The condition of the raw river water fluctuates within wide limits during the course of a year, being related to rainfall, temperature, the seasonal growth of weed, etc.

The following results are averages of reports submitted during the year 1949 :—

*Raw River Kennet water.*

*Chemical Results in Parts per million*

Appearance	Slight opalescence with a slight deposit of mineral and organic debris. Many diatoms and a few protozoa present.					
Colour (Hazen)	Filtered :	Slight yellow-brown	...	...	...	16
Turbidity (Silica Scale)	...	...	...	...	...	12
Odour—Varying between ' Nil ' and ' Faintly Earthy '						
Reaction pH	...	...	...	...	...	8.1
Electric Conductivity at 20°C.	...	...	...	...	...	426
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	...	...	15.6
Hardness—Total	...	...	...	...	...	237
	Carbonate (Temporary)		...	...	...	200
	Non-carbonate (permanent)		...	...	...	37
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	...	...	...	...	2.37
Nitrogen in Nitrites	...	...	...	...	less than	0.01
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	0.071
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	0.11
Metals—Iron	...	...	...	...	...	0.17
	Other metals absent		...	...	...	—
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	...	...	...	1.26
Total Solids, dried at 180°C.	...	...	...	...	...	285
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	...	...	...	...	...	200
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C.	...	...	...	...	...	1.91
Residual Chlorine	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

*Bacteriological Results*

Number of Colonies developing on Agar per cc. or ml. in	{	1 day at 37°C.	...	930
		2 days at 37°C.	...	1,920
		3 days at 20°C.	...	16,900
Presumptive Coliform Reaction	{	Present in	...	0.4 ml.
		Absent from	...	0.04 ml.
Bact. coli. Type I	{	Present in	...	1.3 ml.
		Absent from	...	0.13 ml.
Probable number of Bact. coli.		(Type I) per 100 ml.		2,850

A typical descriptive summary was as follows :—‘ This sample has slight opalescence and deposit, the turbidity being noticeable but not pronounced. The water is very faintly alkaline in reaction, hard in character but not to an excessive degree, contains no excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution and it is free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. It shows no noticeable colour and is of satisfactory organic quality for this raw supply. It carries large numbers of bacteria including bact. coli but the degree of pollution by sewage matters is not excessive. No unusual difficulty would be anticipated in the treatment of the water for the production of a public supply.’

*Treated Water.* A representative report and description of the same river water *after* final filtration and chlorination was as follows :—

*Chemical Results in Parts per million*

Appearance	Bright with very few mineral particles					
Colour (Hazen)	Less than	...	...	...	...	10
Turbidity (Silica Scale)	Less than	...	...	...	...	5
Odour ...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Reaction pH	...	...	...	...	...	7.6
Electric Conductivity at 20°C.	...	...	...	...	...	390
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	...	...	15
Hardness—Total	...	...	...	...	...	220
	Carbonate (Temporary)	...	...	...	...	185
	Non-carbonate (Permanent)	...	...	...	...	35
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	...	...	...	...	2.4
Nitrogen in Nitrites	...	...	...	...	Less than	0.01
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	0.012
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	0.030
Metals—Iron	...	...	...	...	Less than	0.03
	Other metals absent	...	...	...	...	—
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	...	...	...	7
Total Solids, dried at 180°C.	...	...	...	...	...	260
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	...	...	...	...	...	185
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C.	...	...	...	...	...	0.45
Residual Chlorine	...	...	...	...	...	Absent

*Bacteriological Results*

Number of Colonies developing on	Agar per cc. or ml. in	1 day at 37°C.	...	1
		2 days at 37°C.	...	2
		3 days at 20°C.	...	3
Presumptive Coliform Reaction		Present in	...	—
		Absent from	... 100 ml.	
Bact. coli.		Present in	...	—
		Absent from	... 100 ml.	

‘ This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, almost neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a



negligible trace of iron. The water is hard in character but not unduly so and it contains no excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution. It is free from noticeable colour, is of very satisfactory organic quality and of a high standard of bacterial purity.

These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.'

*Deep Borehole Water.* The water from Pangbourne boreholes receives no treatment apart from chlorination: a typical report and description of this water, after chlorination, was as follows:—

*Chemical Results in Parts per million*

Appearance	...	...	...	Bright with a few mineral particles	
Colour (Hazen)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Turbidity (Silica Scale)	...	...	...	Less than	5
Odour—Slightly chlorinous	...	...	...	...	—
Reaction pH	...	...	...	...	7.1
Electric Conductivity at 20°C.	...	...	...	...	510
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	...	14
Hardness: Total	...	...	...	...	285
Carbonate (Temporary)	...	...	...	...	250
Non-carbonate (Permanent)	...	...	...	...	35
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	...	...	...	4.4
Nitrogen in Nitrites	...	...	...	...	Absent
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.000
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.000
Metals: Iron	...	...	...	...	Less than 0.03
Other metals absent	...	...	...	...	—
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	...	...	29
Total Solids, dried at 180°C.	...	...	...	...	340
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	...	...	...	...	250
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C.	...	...	...	...	0.00
Residual Chlorine	...	...	...	...	0.25

*Bacteriological Results*

Number of Colonies developing on Agar per cc. or ml. in	1 day at 37°C.	...	0
	2 days at 37°C.	...	0
	3 days at 20°C.	...	1
Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present in	...	—
	Absent from	100 ml.	
Bact. coli	Present in	...	—
	Absent from	100 ml.	

' This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is hard in character but not to an abnormal or excessive degree and it contains no excess of mineral

or saline constituents in solution. It is of a high standard of organic and bacterial purity.

These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.'

(iii) The water has no plumbo-solvent action and no special precautions are required or taken in this respect.

(iv) During the year under review there were no instances of abnormal contamination or pollution of the sources from which water is abstracted, and the routine purification measures, comprising filtration, chlorination, tests for residual chlorine, and periodical analyses, proved adequate to maintain a satisfactory standard of quality.

It is necessary, however, to exercise constant vigilance in respect of the possibility of pollution of sources, as the following circumstances show.

In May 1949, information was received concerning proposals to install certain additional drainage works in the Pangbourne area. As it was considered that the contemplated method of dealing with the effluent from such works would be likely to lead to pollution of the underground water, appropriate action was taken to oppose the proposals, which were subsequently rejected by the Rural District Council.

Examination of samples of raw (unchlorinated) water from the Pangbourne boreholes are now made at regular intervals so that any evidence of pollution of the underground water may readily be detected.

The quality of the raw water has so far been entirely satisfactory.

(v) *Development of Pangbourne Pumping Station.* In order to meet the steadily increasing demand for water consequent upon the expansion of industry, housing and educational facilities within the undertaking's area of supply, it has been necessary to develop progressively, in recent years, the buildings, plant and pumping mains so as to increase the yield from the available sources.

The principal developments have taken place at Pangbourne pumping station where, between 1941 and the end of 1948, the following works were executed :—

No. 1 borehole, enlarged from 15-in. to 72-in. diameter  $\times$  150-ft. deep.

No. 2 borehole sunk, 36-in. diameter  $\times$  155-ft. deep.

No. 3 borehole sunk, 72-in. diameter  $\times$  150-ft. deep.

Pilot well sunk, 96-in. diameter  $\times$  100-ft. deep.

Headings cut, 951 linear feet at a depth of approximately 80-ft. below ground level, interconnecting the boreholes and pilot well.

No. 1 pump house extension erected and two diesel engine driven borehole pumps installed ; 291 b.h.p. combined.

No. 2 pump house erected, and one large diesel engine driven borehole pump installed ; 290 b.h.p.

7,175 linear yards of 20-in. pumping main laid from Pangbourne to Tilehurst reservoir.

During 1949 the preliminary arrangements were completed and the erection was commenced of an extension to No. 2 pump house ; also tenders were invited for the supply of an electrically driven pump and associated switchgear and ancillaries to be housed in this extension. The pump will have an output of 8,000,000 gallons per day and will be the largest of its kind in the country.

It is estimated that when these last mentioned works are completed, the site will afford a yield of approximately 8,000,000 gallons per day, as compared with a yield of 500,000 gallons per day in 1939.

(vi) The estimated total population supplied from the Corporation's mains in the whole area of supply was 122,529 and the total quantity of water supplied for all purposes during the year was 1,854,167,000 gallons.

The approximate number of dwelling houses together with other premises having domestic occupation, supplied from the Corporation's mains, was 32,300 at 31st March, 1949.

Of this number 32,212 were supplied direct and the remaining 88 supplied by means of standpipes.

According to my records, 39 houses within the Borough do not take a supply from the Corporation's mains, but are supplied from private wells.

In two of these cases service pipes are laid to the boundaries of such premises, but have not been connected to any inside fittings."

## REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

Mr. W. E. Bond, Chief Sanitary Inspector, reports as follows :—

" For several months a depleted staff hampered progress in some directions. The number of complaints received was fewer than in the previous year, and many of these did not relate to housing defects or statutory nuisances under the Public Health Act.



The high costs and difficulties in obtaining building materials and labour still persists, and is in a measure responsible for some delay in the execution of repairs specified in the notices. Formal action has been taken in many instances, but no legal proceedings have been necessary for the non-compliance of statutory notices. It was found that in the majority of cases owners and agents were co-operative.

Considerable attention has been given to all those premises to which section 13 of the Food & Drugs Act applies, and whilst there is still room for improvement, it must be agreed that those people engaged in the food trades are taking an intelligent interest and are very helpful.

The Model Bye-laws relating to food handling will undoubtedly be adopted by the Council in due course, and to enforce these will entail a considerable increase in the work of the sanitary inspectors, for it is only by frequent visiting that a high standard of food hygiene can be achieved and maintained. With the present establishment of five inspectors, adequate supervision and inspection will be very difficult, if not impossible.

*Nuisances.* Twenty-four informal abatement notices were served during the year, 5 of these were to owners and 19 to occupiers. All the notices were complied with.

*Sewers and Drains.* During the year 241 complaints were received regarding choked sewers and drains ; 91 were cleared and 15 repaired and renewed by the owners, and 122 were cleared and 13 repaired and renewed by the Local Authority ; 1,384 visits were paid in connection with these complaints.

*Smoke Abatement.* The extent of nuisance arising from the emission of smoke and grit is not great. There have been two complaints during the year, one of smoke from a factory chimney which was remedied without formal action, the factory having turned over to electric power except for heating purposes, which reduced the working pressure on the boiler. The other complaint was of ashes from the furnace of a woodworking factory, where the shavings and sawdust were disposed of. Alteration and improvement of the flue has remedied this nuisance.

Generally speaking most of the atmospheric pollution in the borough is from domestic chimneys rather than from the factory chimneys.

*Offensive Trades.* There are recorded on the register five businesses coming within this category, namely 1 blood drier,

3 tripe boilers and dressers and 1 rag and bone dealer. All of these operate under the annual consent of the Council.

24 visits of inspections were made during the year to these premises, and they are properly conducted and satisfactory.

All notices to cleanse and lime-wash are given verbally as and when required.

*Infectious Diseases.* 330 inspections were paid to premises following notifications of infectious disease, and advice given to contacts in home nursed cases.

Cleansing and redecoration were ordered where the conditions warranted it.

*Common Lodging Houses.* There are three common lodging houses in the borough, and the registered accommodation of these houses is for 122 men and 2 married couples, there being no accommodation for single women. The premises are very old, and according to present day standards, leave much to be desired, and would be closed if conditions were more normal.

147 visits were made during the year, no contraventions of the bye-laws were noted and no complaints were received. Night supervision was carried out by the police.

*Canal Boats.* It would seem that canal boat traffic on the Thames and Kennet has become a thing of the past. There are no boats on the register and none has been seen during the year.

*Movable Dwellings.* There are 19 licensed sites situated within the borough on which are stationed 34 movable dwellings, all have water supply, suitable sanitary accommodation and refuse collection.

The licences are renewable at six monthly intervals. 364 visits of inspection were paid to these sites and to the caravans visiting the area with amusement fairs.

No cases of infectious disease were notified and no complaints were received.

*Licensed Premises.* As a result of the survey of licensed houses made last year, when a considerable number were found to be deficient of sanitary accommodation and facilities for washing and sterilising glasses, representations were made by the Licensing Justices to the brewers where those deficiencies were

noted, and considerable progress has been made in remedying same.

The restriction of building licences has delayed the erection of additional sanitary accommodation and other improvements in several instances. In the matter of glass washing and the use of sterilising agents, all the licensees have adopted this method.

The sanitary inspectors paid 158 visits to premises where improvements were in progress.

A summary of defects found on the initial survey and the improvements carried out is given below :—

	Survey		Improvements		
No. without sufficient W.C. accom.	M. 33	F. 9	Sufficient W.C. accom. provided	M. 19	F. 7
No. with sufficient but unsatisfactory W.C. accom.	M. 7	F. 6	Satisfactory W.C. accom. provided	M. 4	F. 6
No. without Urinal accom.	M. 1		Urinal accom. provided	M. 1	
No. with unsatisfactory urinal accom.	M. 50		Satisfactory urinal accom. provided	M. 45	
No. without sufficient lighting and ventilation	3		Satisfactory ventilation and lighting provided	3	
No. without hot water in bar	39		Hot water in bar provided	38	
No. without hot or cold water in bar	25		Hot and cold water in bar provided	23	
No. without sinks	20		Sinks provided	16	
No. with sinks but without properly trapped waste pipes	12		Trapped waste pipes provided	11	
No. without cover for snacks	1		Cover for snacks provided	1	
No. with dampness in bars and cellars	3		Dampness remedied	2	
No. with defective floors in smokeroom and public bar	1		Defects remedied	1	



*Disinfestation (Verminous Houses)*

	No. of Com- plaints Received	Houses Disinfested	Rooms Disinfested
Council Houses ... ..	40	33	67
Private Houses ... ..	238	195	350
Totals	278	228	417

No. of visits prior to disinfestation	...	...	338
No. of visits to disinfest	...	...	278
No. of re-visits	...	...	85
No. of visits prior to removal to Council Houses			6
		Total	707

The use of D.D.T. against bed bugs and fleas has been most successful, and in only two cases was a second application necessary. Eight complaints respecting premises treated in 1947 were received, and three of these were requests for disinfestation as a precautionary measure, in the other five cases the rooms were sub-let, which probably accounts for the reinfestations.

*Cockroaches and Steamflies.* Heavy infestations were reported in a bakehouse and a kitchen. These pests are particularly difficult to eradicate. In both premises the ceilings were composed of plasterboard, and the breeding place was in the space between the ceiling and the roof.

Treatment :—In the bakehouse. A number of floorboards were removed in the storeroom above the bakehouse, and a heavy layer of insecticide powder was deposited on the upper surface of the ceiling. The walls and underside were treated by spraying.

In the kitchen. The ceiling plasterboard was fixed in metal frames bolted to the iron structure which carried the roof, to enable powder to be deposited on the upper side of the ceiling, holes were cut at intervals large enough to admit the powder blower to deposit a layer of insecticide. Liquid spray was used on walls and other surface breeding places.

Both powder and liquid insecticide were still in the experimental stage and supplied by the makers to test. The results were successful and both premises have been free from steam flies for over three months.

Several old properties are under treatment, but owing to the condition of the buildings, are proving rather difficult to deal with satisfactorily.

*Pentarthrum huttoni*. One case of infestation by pentarthrum huttoni in the basement of a shop was successfully dealt with. This small wood-boring beetle is very destructive, and is comparatively rare in this country. They have been previously recorded in the S.W. Counties and S.W. Ireland. Its occurrence in Reading appears to be a further extension of range, and a similar extension appears to be developing on the Continent. At the request of the British Museum, specimens were sent to them for their collection records.

In this particular case the beetles were breeding in the plywood back of a large wall mirror, which was practically eaten away. The woodwork of the mirror was removed and destroyed, and all other woodwork treated with D.D.T.

*Drosophila*. Five cases of invasion of premises by this small black fly were dealt with. These flies often enter houses during the autumn and settle on bedroom ceilings in dense masses, covering the whole ceiling. Owing to the exceptionally hot summer the flies were rather more numerous than usual. D.D.T. spray proved an effective remedy.

*Other Pests*. Advice and treatment were given in several other cases of infestation by ants, flies, woodworm, beetles and other household pests.

*Refuse Tips*. There are three refuse tips on private land in the borough operated by their owners primarily to fill up low lying ground with hard core and rubble.

Unfortunately, so soon as these tips were located by the public, all kinds of refuse was deposited at times when least observed. Informal action has been taken against the owners, and by frequent inspection by the sanitary inspectors and the rodent staff some measure of control and freedom from rats is obtained.

**Factories Act, 1937-1948.** There are 580 factories recorded in the register kept for this purpose and 549 visits were paid by the district sanitary inspectors. 31 complaints were received from the factory inspector and 56 notices were served on owners to remedy the conditions and defects existing.

*Outworkers*. In accordance with the Act, lists received in February and August from employers returned 37 homeworkers whose premises were all inspected. 10 lists of names and addresses were received from, and 3 were forwarded to, other local authorities.

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	No. of written Notices
Factories without mechanical power	114	132	20
Factories with mechanical power	466	417	36
Total	580	549	56

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness ... ..	11	12	—	4
Inadequate ventilation ... ..	1	1	—	1
Sanitary Conveniences—				
(a) Insufficient ... ..	3	4	—	1
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	43	43	—	24
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	1	1	—	1
Total	59	61*	—	31

\*Includes 5 Outstanding 1948 complied with and leaves  
3 Outstanding in 1949

**Places of Entertainment.** 46 visits were paid to these premises during the year. Generally the conditions were satisfactory. A survey is being made of the premises with the intention of adopting a general standard of condition which may be applied to all, especially where light refreshments are served.

**Shops Act, 1934. Section 10.** Section 10 of this Act requires the provision of suitable and sufficient sanitary accommodation for the use of persons employed in or about the shop, unless a certificate of exemption is granted by the Local Authority that they are satisfied by reason of restricted space such sanitary accommodation cannot be provided.

7 complaints were received from the Shops Act inspector. 1 notice was served respecting the provision of sanitary accommodation and was complied with. 5 exemptions were granted.

**Swimming Baths and Bathing Pools.** There are 4 borough swimming baths and 1 swimming pool. Two of these are situated on the south bank of the river Thames, the water being obtained by direct flow from the river, relying on the river



level for adequate change of water. One other is situated near the Holy Brook, the water flowing into the bath over a weir.

All these baths were seriously affected by the fall in water level during the long dry spell of this year, and despite regular emptying and cleaning, the water was never satisfactory. The conditions were such that the Medical Officer of Health caused the baths to be closed to eliminate those factors which might contribute to the public danger.

The swimming pool is formed by booming off part of the river Thames on the Scours reach, and is always free flowing over a gravel bottom.

The Arthur Hill Memorial baths are covered and are supplied by mains and equipped with a filtration and chlorination plant. 17 samples were taken from this bath and were satisfactory.

44 samples were taken from the other three baths ; of which 21 were unsatisfactory.

Consideration is being given to the installation of adequate chlorinating plant at those baths which were closed during the year.

**Rodent Control.** The work of destruction of rats and mice has received the close attention of this department, and the rodent officer with three operatives have carried out effective work in the disinfestation of both private and business premises.

The total number of complaints received during the year was 1,013 as compared with 601 in 1948. This increase may be accounted for by the fact that charges for private dwellings have been discontinued. As each complaint involves visits to adjoining premises, the number of complaints does not give a true picture of the total work carried out.

The refuse tip under the control of the borough surveyor has received systematic treatment throughout the year, and as a result is almost free from rats. Routine treatment of other council property has been maintained. Periodical treatment of school meals kitchens and stores has been successful in the destruction of mice, and they are kept free from infestation of this most destructive pest.

The initial treatment of the sewage system was completed and two maintenance treatments were carried out at half-yearly intervals. The results gave ample proof that the initial treatment had been very effective.

In addition to the destruction of rats and mice the rodent operators dealt with the destruction of numerous other pests.

RODENT CONTROL

	Private Dwellings	Commercial Premises	Council Property	Food Stores	Kitchens	Refuse Tip	Allotments	Sewers (Manholes)	Totals
Tested and found clear ...	11	97	3	12	3	—	—	1,000	1,126
Tested and found infested ...	81	386	52	27	17	4	3	144	714
Number of prebait laid ...	803	2,276	701	240	111	994	86	1,288	6,499
Number of poison baits laid ...	419	1,258	440	126	106	270	56	144	2,819
Number of rats picked up ...	205	227	86	39	10	95	28	29	719
Estimated kill—rats ...	517	985	319	182	45	568	67	95	2,778
Number of mice picked up ...	256	542	134	86	49	—	—	—	1,067
Estimated kill—mice ...	668	1,485	607	209	116	—	—	—	3,085
Inspections ...	421	2,244	312	173	78	39	17	2,576	5,860
Other Vermin									
Remarks									
No. of complaints dealt with									
Badgers ...	1	...						1 Destroyed	
Foxes ...	2	...						6 "	
Moles ...	2	...						50 "	
Pigeons ...	8	...						In 3 cases no attempt was made to destroy, but advised fencing. In 5 cases a total of 37 were trapped and destroyed	
Rabbits ...	13	...						In 9 cases gassing carried out, estimated kill 100. In 4 cases only odd rabbits found and no action could be taken	
Rooks ...	1	...						Complaint investigated and turned out to be jackdaws. No action taken	
Squirrels ...	1	...						4 destroyed	
Wasps' Nests	173	...						163 combs removed. In 10 cases impossible to remove combs, but wasps were destroyed	

**Inspection of Food Premises.** The duties in connection with the inspection of food premises are carried out by the sanitary inspectors. This year special attention has been paid to restaurants and kitchens, and in addition to routine inspections, a survey was made of works canteens and fried fish shops. The results of this survey were recorded, and revealed that the standard of hygiene was generally satisfactory. 2,308 visits were paid to all these premises and notices to cleanse and redecorate were served in 15 instances. Structural alterations and improvements were carried out in 21 premises. All these notices were complied with.

A summary of the number of visits paid to the various food premises is given below.

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	181
Butchers' Shops		...	...	...	...	...	...	234
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	288
Food Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	111
Greengrocers and Fruiterers		...	...	...	...	...	...	54
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	631
Markets and Stalls		...	...	...	...	...	...	164
Restaurants and Kitchens		...	...	...	...	...	...	583
Works Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	62

*Food Factories.* There are 4 wholesale premises registered with the local authority, 3 as wholesale dealers in margarine, and one as a butter factory which is not at present operating but wished to retain registration.

*School Meals Kitchens.* An inspection of school meals kitchens was made during the latter part of the year. The general standard both of construction and hygiene was of a high level and the co-operation and assistance given by the school meals organiser much appreciated.

**Inspection of Meat and other Food** Since 1940, Reading has been the slaughtering centre for home killed meat for consumption within the borough and nine other towns and villages in the adjoining district. For this purpose the public abattoirs and one other slaughterhouse were taken over by the Ministry of Food. There is also one other slaughterhouse operating under a licence from the Ministry for the slaughter and curing of pigs for bacon, and in addition 4 private slaughterhouses are licensed annually, but under the Livestock (Restriction on Slaughter) Order, they are not operating except in one instance for the occasional slaughter of cottagers' pigs killed for own consumption.

Normal routine inspection is carried out of all animals slaughtered in the borough. 47,928 carcasses were dealt with at the abattoirs and bacon factory including those killed for own consumption.



During the latter part of the year arrangements were completed whereby the Ministry of Food agreed to lease the public abattoirs for a number of years, and to reconstruct them on modern lines. This will include improvements to lairage accommodation, and when completed will provide for a considerable increase in the number of animals slaughtered, and for the ante-mortem examination of those awaiting slaughter. It is hoped that these improvements will be completed in the autumn of next year.

*Cysticercus Bovis* (Circular M.F. 5/48). 100 per cent inspection is made on bovine carcasses and offal for the purpose of detecting the lesion, and six cases were discovered.

Reference was made in each case to the Veterinary Science Department of Reading University for confirmation, and the carcasses were removed to cold storage for a period of 21 days at a temperature of 20°F. and then released for manufacturing purposes.

**Legal Proceedings.**

*Section 57. Slaughtering on Unlicensed Premises.* Proceedings were instituted under the above Section for using unlicensed premises for the slaughter of two calves.

The defendant was found guilty and fined £10 and costs.

**Carcases Inspected and Condemned**

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. killed (if known) ... ..	4,488	2,076	5,580	14,917	20,867
No. inspected ... ..	4,488	2,076	5,580	14,917	20,867
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis:</i> Whole carcasses condemned ...	13	35	4	11	15
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	792	575	18	605	356
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	17.94	29.38	.39	4.13	1.78
<b>Tuberculosis Only—</b> Whole carcasses condemned ...	13	54	5	—	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	396	409	6	—	274
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with Tuber- culosis ... ..	9.11	22.30	.20	—	1.33

47 tons 15 cwts. 1 qtr. and 20 lbs. of meat were condemned at the slaughterhouses and dealt with by the Ministry's agents.

*Condemned Foodstuffs.* The quantity of meat and other foodstuffs which was examined and found unfit for human consumption is given in the table below.

Meat—								
Beef ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	759 lbs.
Pork ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,257 „
Bacon ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,332 „
Rabbits ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	879 „
Chicken ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45 „
Canned Goods ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21,108 tins
Fish ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,623 lbs.
Miscellaneous—								
Carrots ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,105 „
Chocolate Spread ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	567 „
Christmas Puddings ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	504 „
Dates ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	72 „
Dried Peas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	857 „
Eggs ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,304
Flour ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,260 lbs.
Jam ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31 „
Pastry Mix ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,600 „
Soup Powder ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18½ tons
Other Items ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,990 lbs.

During the year fires occurred at two large food premises in the borough and considerable damage was caused to the food stocks.

In conjunction with the Food Office every effort was made to salvage as much as possible, but despite the care taken by the sanitary inspectors, 2,359 tins foodstuffs, 19,620 shell eggs, and 66 tons 16 cwts. 2 qrs. 13 lbs. of various other foods were condemned as unfit for human consumption, and in these days of food shortages these losses were serious.

**Transportation of Meat.** The transport of meat from the slaughterhouses to the butchers' shops is undertaken by the Meat Transport Organisation Ltd., as contractors to the Ministry of Food. There is a fleet of twelve vans at the local depot, some of which are equipped with hanging rails.

The vans attending the slaughterhouses are inspected daily and particular attention is paid to cleanliness of the vans and to the clothing of the men. Van offal bins are cleansed daily with hot water and soda and every endeavour is made to keep the floors of vans clean whilst loading and unloading.

Until it is possible to provide properly equipped meat vans to every depot, there can be little improvement in the handling and transport of meat.

*Wholesale Meat Depots.* There are two such depots in the borough, both are of fairly modern design and well equipped and the meat handling arrangements are satisfactory. Frequent visits to these premises find them always satisfactory.

*Whalemeat Regulations, 1949.* Whalemeat does not appear to have found favour with the public. Inspections made to the shops revealed that only a few dealt with this commodity.

No contravention of the Regulations was noted.

*Merchandise Marks Act, 1926.* No action was found necessary under this Act.

**Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.** The above Act makes provision as to the slaughter of certain animals in slaughterhouses and knackers' yards, and for the prohibition of the stunning and slaughter of animals except by licensed slaughtermen using humane methods.

Slaughtermen's licences are granted by the Council and renewable every three years subject to proof of ability to use a humane killer satisfactorily.

The number of licensed slaughtermen on the register at the end of the year was 32, which included three new applications.

*Knackers' Yards.* There is one knackers' yard situated within the borough, and is licensed annually under the Food & Drugs Act, 1938. The premises are also licensed under the Knackers' Yard Order, 1948, which requires a record to be kept of the number of animals received and the manner of their disposal, according to the register kept by the occupier. 197 animals were slaughtered during the year, and all the meat and offal is stained in accordance with the requirements and in this case is disposed of wholesale.

50 visits were paid during the year, no complaints were received and no nuisances were observed.

**Adulteration of Food and Drugs.** The adulteration of food, including milk, is determined by sampling and chemical analysis. The procedure is that laid down in the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, and Orders made thereunder.



During the year, 318 samples were submitted to the Public Analyst, and the results are summarised in the following table :—

Article examined	Number of samples	Number found to be genuine	Number not up to standard
Baking Powder ... ..	2	2	—
Beetroot ... ..	1	—	1
Bicarbonate of Soda ...	1	1	—
Butter ... ..	6	6	—
Coffee ... ..	3	3	—
Coffee and Chicory Extract	2	2	—
Curry Powder ... ..	1	1	—
Flour (Self-Raising) ...	1	1	—
Golden Raising Powder ...	1	1	—
Ice Cream ... ..	19	19	—
Margarine ... ..	2	2	—
Milk (New) ... ..	244	204	40
Milk (Dried) ... ..	1	—	1
Oil (Olive) ... ..	1	1	—
Pastry Mix ... ..	2	1	1
Pepper (White) ... ..	1	1	—
Pepper (Black) ... ..	1	1	—
Saccharin ... ..	2	2	—
Salad Cream ... ..	2	2	—
Sausage Meat (Beef) ...	2	2	—
Sausage Meat (Pork) ...	5	5	—
Sausages (Beef) ... ..	2	2	—
Sausages (Pork) ... ..	6	6	—
Soft Drinks (Orange Squash)	1	1	—
Soft Drinks (Lemon Squash)	1	1	—
Sugar Fat Mixture ... ..	1	—	1
Sweets ... ..	3	3	—
Vinegar (Non-brewed) ...	4	4	—
Totals	318	274	44

Summary proceedings were instituted in two cases of adulterated milk, and one case was referred to the Ministry of Food. Appeal to cow samples were taken in two cases, and advisory action adopted in the remainder.

The increase in the number of poor quality milk samples may be attributed to the effect of the abnormally dry summer on grazing and possibly to the long periods between milking.

Referring to the other unsatisfactory samples of foodstuffs, one was imported under licence and the case was referred to the Ministry of Food. In the other three cases the stocks were withdrawn and sent for animal feeding.

## **Milk Supply**

**Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949.** These new regulations came into operation on the 1st October, 1949, and are largely a re-enactment of the provisions of the Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1926-43. The principal changes introduced into the regulations are consequent upon the coming into force of the Food & Drugs (Milk & Dairies) Act, 1944 and the Transfer of Functions Order, 1948. They make the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries responsible for the registration of dairy farms and the execution and enforcement of the regulations insofar as they relate to dairy farms and persons carrying on the trade of a dairy farmer. The Local Authority retains its responsibility for the execution of the provisions which apply outside the dairy farms for the registration of dairies not being dairy farms and also the registration of distributors of milk.

As a result of these new regulations the registers to be kept by the local authority have been entirely re-written and brought up to date.

The number of dairies and dairy premises on the register at the end of 1949 was 68.

The number of cowsheds on the register until the 30th September, 1949, was 11, and 114 visits were made to these premises. All notices to lime-wash were complied with.

**Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.** These regulations re-enact with amendments the old regulations of 1936-48 insofar as they relate to raw milk. They provide that licences to producers of raw milk of any designation shall be granted by the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries and the Local Authority will continue to grant licences to dealers to use special designations in regard to such milk, viz. Tuberculin Tested and Accredited.

The regulations prescribe that milk sold under a special designation shall satisfy a prescribed test. There are some minor amendments regarding the granting of licences and in the conditions subject to which they may be granted.

**Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised & Sterilised) Regulations, 1949.** These regulations re-enact with amendments the Special Designation Regulations of 1936-48 so far as they relate to Pasteurised milk and provide for a new designation Sterilised milk—together with a test for same.

The regulations are made jointly by the Minister of Health and the Minister of Food, and are concerned only with the designation of heat treated milk.

With the exception of a very small quantity, all milk retailed in the borough is contained in sealed bottles and the average monthly gallonage consumed based on figures obtained during the month of June was 304,860, and of this quantity only 1.35% was undesignated raw milk.

365 samples of designated milk were taken and an analysis of the results is given below :—

Class of Milk	No. of Samples tested	Appropriate Tests	No. of Samples	
			Passed	Failed
" Pasteurised " ... ..	122	Phosphatase Methylene Blue	118 118	4 4
" Heat Treated " ... ..	30	Phosphatase Methylene Blue	29 29	1 1
" Tuberculin Tested " ... (" Pasteurised ")	47	Phosphatase Methylene Blue	47 44	— 3
" Tuberculin Tested " ... " Tuberculin Tested " ... (" Certified ") ... ..	111 3	Methylene Blue Coliform	114 —	— —
" Accredited " ... ..	52	Methylene Blue Coliform	51 —	1 —

**Biological Testing of Milk.** 20 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratories for testing for the presence of tubercle bacilli, but no adverse reports were received.

**School Milk Supplies.** All milk supplied to the Council's schools is pasteurised, and regular samples are taken at the place of production and submitted to the prescribed test. No adverse reports were received on same. The quantity of milk supplied daily to schools is 497 gallons.

**Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947-8.** There are 298 premises on the register, of these 231 are registered for storage and sale only and 67 for manufacture in addition to storage and sale. During the year 486 visits of inspection were made to these premises.



There has been a considerable progress in the standard of hygiene both in equipment and premises, the improvement in the results of the samples taken is evidence of the increased care being taken by the manufacturers and retailers.

The comparative table of samples taken showing percentages in each grade as compared with the years 1947 and 1948 is given below :—

During 1949 :—120 samples were taken and submitted for methylene blue test :—

83 or 69.17% fell within Provisional Grades 1 and 2.

37 or 30.83% fell within Provisional Grades 3 and 4.

During 1948 :—205 samples were taken and submitted for methylene blue test :—

123 or 60.00% fell within Provisional Grades 1 and 2.

82 or 40.00% fell within Provisional Grades 3 and 4.

During 1947 :—60 samples were taken and submitted for methylene blue test :—

15 or 25% fell within Provisional Grades 1 and 2.

45 or 75% fell within Provisional Grades 3 and 4.

19 samples were submitted for chemical analysis with the following results :—

Sample No.	Percentage of Fat	Percentage of Total Solids
1	5.02	30.0
2	8.3	32.1
3	9.9	25.4
4	8.5	28.2
5	7.15	25.0
6	10.5	30.0
7	10.05	36.0
8	1.45	14.6
9	3.06	29.0
10	7.55	29.37
11	11.5	34.9
12	9.5	31.5
13	8.06	31.6
14	4.08	21.9
15	13.3	58.2
16	8.4	33.2
17	6.05	25.6
18	7.0	32.4
19	8.25	44.1

## HOUSING

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	903
Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	3,740
Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	2
Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	461
Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	...	...	...	...	405

**Housing Act—**

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices requiring repairs were served	...	...	...	...	16
Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices					
By owner	...	...	...	...	*11
By Local Authority	...	...	...	...	†17
By Undertakings not to let until made fit	...	...	...	...	—

**Public Health Act—**

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	1
Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	...	...	...	...	1

\* Includes 7 outstanding from 1948

† Includes 6 outstanding from 1948

**TOTAL DISINFECTIONS from Jan. 1st, 1949, to Dec. 31st, 1949**

Beds Town and Country	Houses Town and Country	Rooms Town and Country	Miscellaneous Articles Town and Country
413	340	308	3,455

**Slum Clearance and Re-housing.** It has not been possible to carry out a house-to-house survey through the town to obtain a detailed picture of the housing situation in Reading and thus it is not possible to state how many of the five thousand applicants on the housing list are living in houses which are considered unfit for human habitation by 1939 standards and how many are living in overcrowded conditions or in houses which although not ripe for demolition, lack modern amenities.

But my impression is that the majority of the applicants are living in overcrowded conditions rather than in houses which should be demolished; my information suggests that there are 749 houses in the borough which should be demolished under the Housing Acts. I am especially grateful to the consideration which

## SUMMARY OF DEFECTS REMEDIED

Description of Work	Public Health Act	Housing Act	Factories Act	Food and Drugs	Shops Act
Accumulations removed ...	13	—	—	—	—
Decorations renewed ...	1	253	9	4	—
Chimneys repaired or renewed	3	18	—	—	—
Downspouts repaired or renewed	2	41	—	—	—
Fireplaces and kitchen grates, etc., repaired or renewed ...	1	60	—	—	—
Floors repaired or renewed ...	2	58	—	—	—
Ceilings repaired or renewed ...	2	170	—	—	—
Gutters repaired or renewed ...	10	61	—	—	—
Plasterwork repaired or renewed	5	210	—	—	—
Passages repaired ...	—	19	—	—	—
Roofs repaired or renewed ...	18	218	—	—	—
Staircases repaired or renewed	2	17	—	—	—
Walls repaired or renewed ...	2	216	—	—	—
Windows repaired or renewed	4	5	—	—	—
Woodwork (general) repaired or renewed ...	5	74	—	—	—
Yards repaired ...	3	9	—	—	—
Dampness remedied ...	8	142	—	—	—
Coppers repaired or renewed ...	—	17	—	—	—
Food stores provided ...	—	1	—	—	—
W.C. accommodation repaired or renewed ...	5	29	10	—	—
W.C. cisterns repaired or renewed	3	32	—	—	—
W.C. pans repaired or renewed	15	38	—	—	—
W.C. Hopper pan conversions...	—	11	—	—	—
Water service pipes repaired or renewed ...	2	1	—	—	—
Sinks repaired or renewed ...	4	31	—	1	—
Sink wastes repaired or renewed	2	23	—	1	—
Drains cleared, repaired or renewed ...	238	3	—	—	—
Nuisances abated (general) ...	6	1	—	—	—
Food preparing premises cleansed	2	—	—	11	—
Kitchens cleansed ...	—	—	—	10	—
Factories cleansed ...	—	—	3	—	—
Sufficient W.C. accommodation provided ...	—	—	7	—	1
W.C. accommodation separate for sexes ...	—	—	1	—	1
Premises cleansed ...	—	—	5	—	—
Lighting and ventilation improved ...	—	—	1	2	—
Verminous persons cleansed ...	1	—	—	—	—
Caravans removed ...	2	—	—	—	—
Ice cream premises made suitable	—	—	—	1	—
Cesspools repaired or renewed ...	2	—	—	—	—
Fried fish and chip shops ...	—	—	—	6	—
Bakehouses cleansed ...	—	—	12	1	—



has been given by the housing committee to the re-housing of tuberculous patients ; from the report of the housing manager, it will be seen that nearly 10% of the families re-housed by the Council in 1949 were families of tuberculous patients.

Mr. C. H. A. Willett, borough architect and housing manager, has been kind enough to supply the following information :—

“ The number of new houses completed during the year, that is from 1st January, 1949 to the 31st December, 1949, by the Corporation was 198. By private enterprise, 39. The number of houses adapted by private enterprise for dwelling purposes was 23, but I feel I should inform you that these 23 will in fact house 37 families. The number of families re-housed by the local authority in post-war and pre-war houses was 261. The number of tuberculous families re-housed was 23.

The number of aged persons bungalows completed during the year was 4, and the number of families on the waiting list at the 31st December was 5,307. This number includes 1,010 applications made during 1949 and who have been placed on the supplementary register for that year.

At the end of this month, that is the 31st January, 1950, these 1,010 applications will come into line with all the other applications made previously.

The 5,307 applications are made up of families living in overcrowded conditions, families not overcrowded but living in rooms, tenants of accommodation who wish to be considered at some future date for a Corporation house, aged persons, medical cases, and also tenants of accommodation who through the size of their family are overcrowded in their present accommodation.”

**Sewage Disposal.** Mr. K. H. Thorpe, Borough Engineer, and Surveyor, has supplied the following information :—

“*Manor Farm Sewage Disposal Works.* During the year ending December, 1949, 1,530 million gallons of sewage were treated at this works. The average daily flow was 4,190,000 gallons, an increase of 230,000 gallons per day on last year's average.

*Chlorination.* An average of 5 parts per million of free chlorine have been added throughout the year to the crude sewage to check septicity in the sedimentation tanks.

*Sludge.* 8 million gallons of crude sludge were removed from the sedimentation tanks. The greater part of this was treated in the sludge digestion tanks, but some had to be pumped to the old sludge lagoons on Roundabouts field.

The whole of the sludge lifted from the sludge drying beds has been used for agricultural purposes.

*Activated Sludge Plant.* This plant has removed some 32 per cent of the total albumenoid nitrogen from the settled sewage prior to treatment by the bacterial filter beds, which is a slight improvement on last year (30%).

Work on the renovation of two units of this plant was completed in September 1949.

*Caversham Sewage Disposal Works.* The flow at this works is not recorded, but it is estimated that the daily flow is from 500,000 to 600,000 gallons. The chemical analysis of the crude sewage shows that it is tending to become stronger.

*Sewage Disposal Generally.* The disposal work at Manor Farm and at Caversham are working considerably in excess of their designed capacity and the Council during 1949 decided in principle to construct a new sewage disposal works to serve the whole of the borough.

*House Refuse Collection.* During 1949, the collection of house refuse has continued once weekly. Six new vehicles were delivered during June and July and the fleet of collection vehicles is now 90 per cent modernised. This service is maintained by 14 house refuse collection vehicles and 50 employees.

The following table shows the quantity of house refuse collected from premises within the borough with the total mileage of vehicles used in this collection :—

Quarter Ending	1949	1949	1948	1948
	Tons	Miles	Tons	Miles
31st March ... ..	7,045	20,297	6,458	18,658
30th June ... ..	5,375	19,471	5,348	19,725
30th September ... ..	4,072	20,560	3,942	17,424
31st December ... ..	5,946	21,646	6,809	19,427
Totals	22,438	81,974	22,557	75,234

*Trade Refuse.* Trade refuse is collected at the same time as domestic refuse and at such other time as can be arranged between the trader and Corporation. In some cases traders

prefer to deliver trade refuse to the refuse disposal tip under their own arrangements and facilities are available for this to be done.

The continued separation of kitchen waste from the household refuse and its free collection by the Corporation has been welcomed by householders and the Council have, during the year, decided to extend the individual container system to new housing estates and other areas which are not served by any kitchen waste collection at the present time.

*House Refuse Disposal.* The existing refuse disposal tip at Basingstoke Road is being completely filled and covered in and a new site is being prepared. This site is situated on low-lying land on the banks of the Kennet and Avon Canal, north of the old filter beds at Manor Farm sewage works, and controlled tipping on a modern mechanical system will be operated. This system is the most economical and advantageous method of disposal where land is available, and the filling in of this particular low lying area, now subject to flooding, will make the land available for other purposes.

*Street Cleansing.* The "beat" system of street cleansing by street orderlies has been maintained and proves to be a satisfactory method. Collection of street refuse is carried out by means of street orderly trucks which are visited by street cleansing freighters for the collection of the accumulated refuse.

There has been an improvement in the cleanliness of many streets within the borough during 1949 and the present standard is not far below the pre-war level.

The litter nuisance is still a problem in the shopping centres and main bus routes and 40 additional litter bins have been placed at bus stops.

The following is a comparative table of the number of employees engaged on street cleansing :—

		1949	1948	1938
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Men	...	51	54	19
Boys	...	Nil	3	55
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Totals	51	57	74
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>



The following table shows the quantity of street sweepings collected within the borough and the mileage of the collection vehicles :—

Quarter Ending	1949		1948	
	Tons	Miles	Tons	Miles
31st March ... ..	406	3,999	408	3,316
30th June ... ..	326	4,183	401	3,354
30th September ... ..	285	3,718	328	3,903
31st December ... ..	400	3,446	336	3,731
Totals	1,417	15,346	1,473	14,304

*Street Gully Cleansing.* 7,413 gullies are emptied and sealed with fresh water by mechanically operated vehicles. The initial cleaning out of gullies in private streets was completed during the year and mechanical cleansing is now undertaken at regular intervals. An abnormally dry summer necessitated channel and footpath washing at intervals. The following table shows the comparative tonnage removed during the years 1948 and 1949 :—

1949—10,014 tons                      1948—11,216 tons

*Cesspool Emptying.* All domestic cesspools are emptied by two mechanical cesspool emptying vehicles upon receipt of instructions from occupiers or owners of premises.

During the year under review the charges for cesspool emptying were amended and it has resulted in more frequent use being made of this cleansing service."

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

### SECTION 21—PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION FOR AGED AND INFIRM

During the year much work was done in planning for the provision of new hostels for aged and infirm people, although the first new hostel (Wychcotes) was not formally opened until January, 1950.

Considerable improvements were effected in upgrading the accommodation at Woodlands; much of the furniture was replaced, there were additions to the kitchen equipment and a considerable amount of redecoration was carried out. Although this hostel is still accommodating more people than is advisable there have been considerable improvements in the amenities of the place.

The number of people for whom the local authority was responsible at the end of the year was as follows :—

		Battle Hospital	Woodlands	Other Institutions
Men	...	16	41	3
Women	...	34	35	8
Children	...	—	—	—
		—	—	—
Total		50	76	11
		—	—	—

### SECTION 31—MEALS FOR OLD PEOPLE

The W.V.S. operate a very successful Meals on Wheels Service in the borough. During the year 7,127 meals were served and greatly appreciated by all the recipients.

Our very great thanks are due to Mrs. Buckingham and her colleagues for the energetic way in which they have administered the service.

## SECTION 29—WELFARE OF HANDICAPPED PERSONS —BLIND PERSONS

The secretary of the Reading Association for the Welfare of the Blind has supplied me with the following information :—

“ On December 31st, 1949, there were 207 blind people on the register of the Reading Association for the Welfare of the Blind, 84 males and 123 females. The age groups were as follows :—

### AGE GROUPS

	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—
1 to 4 years ...	—	—	—
5 „ 15 „ ...	3	—	3
16 „ 20 „ ...	3	1	4
21 „ 39 „ ...	8	10	18
40 „ 49 „ ...	9	14	23
50 „ 64 „ ...	14	26	40
65 years and over	47	72	119
Totals ...	84	123	207

### AGE AT WHICH BLINDNESS OCCURRED

	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year ...	10	9	19
1 to 4 years	1	3	4
5 „ 15 „ ...	4	2	6
16 „ 20 „ ...	3	1	4
21 „ 39 „ ...	10	16	26
40 „ 49 „ ...	6	11	17
50 „ 64 „ ...	21	32	53
65 years and over	28	47	75
Age unknown ...	1	2	3
Totals ...	84	123	207

During the year there were 27 deaths, 7 transfers out, 22 new cases and 5 transfers in.

*Home Workers.* Our 8 home workers—2 piano tuners, 1 boot repairer, 2 basket makers, 2 machine knitters and 1 hand knitter—was reduced to 7 in September, when Miss G. Lewis, hand knitter, was removed from the register, owing to her decreased output. The augmentation of home workers was raised to £2 as from April 1st, 1949, but in the case of 2 home workers who were receiving pensions, the augmentation was raised to 32/6 only in order that they might still draw the pension.



*Home Teachers.* A new home teacher, Miss Leeming, commenced her duties with the Association on January 1st, 1949, and she passed the home teachers' examination in July. Reading was divided into areas for the purpose of the two home teachers' visits.

*Pastime Classes and Domino Club.* These were held throughout the year on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The crafts taught and practised were: knitting, string-bag making, rug-making, some leather work, raffia work, stool seating and cane work. Tournaments have added to the pleasure of the domino meetings, and attendance has remained consistent.

*Monthly Socials.* These were held on the last Friday of each month at the Katesgrove School Hall, and a variety of entertainments provided. Toc H and Round Table continued to give valuable assistance with the transport of the blind people to and from the socials. In July, 6 blind people formed a social committee and, with members of the staff, meet monthly to arrange social activities. The biggest of those activities was a garden party on September, 16th held in the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Kemp, Craven Road. The party was much enjoyed, and an excellent tea provided by the kindness of several Reading firms.

*Lectures.* A course of 6 lectures on "Greek Drama" was held at the University before Easter, and was given by Mr. R. D. Williams, M.A. The attendance was small but very regular, and again we were helped with transport. In October, the W.E.A. started a series of lectures on "Musical Appreciation for the Blind," given by Mrs. Carson, who, with the help of piano and gramophone, managed to make the lectures most interesting; and a good deal was learned about the lives and works of the great composers.

*Annual Flag Day, May 7th.* This produced a record of over £500, a proportion of which was allocated to the Reading Association, the National Institute for the Blind retaining their portion after the deduction of expenses.

*Summer Outing.* Four coaches of blind people, staff and guides went to Brighton for the day on Saturday, June 18th. Lunch was provided by the Association at a local restaurant, and the afternoon was enjoyed in various ways, the party meeting again at 6 p.m. for the return to Reading. The weather, as usual, was very good.

*Horticultural Show.* The Association is indebted to the Reading Horticultural Federation, who allowed us a stall at their Annual Show on August 27th and 28th, thus enabling us to show the goods made by the blind and to sell about £30 worth, as well as to take orders for further work. Mr. Turner, a blind man, gave an able speech at the show, in which he thanked the organisers for allowing us these facilities. The Association also received £20 of the profits made on the show as a whole.

*Christmas Party.* This was held on December 23rd at Messrs. McIlroy's, in the Jacobean Restaurant, and was attended by a large number of the blind and members of the committee and staff. Mr. W. E. C. McIlroy was M.C., and the Mayor and Mayoress were present, to wish everybody welcome and to distribute gifts from the Christmas tree. A good tea was followed by games and a concert, the concert commencing with four songs sung by a "blind choir" of about twelve blind people, who had been well trained by the home teachers.

*Wireless.* We received 8 new wireless sets during the year, from the British Wireless for the Blind Fund, 5 battery and 3 electric sets. These were all allocated to deserving cases.

*Executive Committee.* This committee met each month at 49 Minster Street, under the chairmanship of Mr. W. E. C. McIlroy, C.B.E., J.P. New members elected at the Annual Meeting—held on Friday, July 22nd, in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall—were Mrs. Beddow, representing Co-operative Women's Guild (later succeeded by Mrs. Taylor), Councillor Pettit, representing the Education Committee, and Councillor Lord. The speaker at the meeting was Mr. A. Brown, C.S.M.M.G., M.E., a war blinded ex-soldier who spoke on his training at St. Dunstan's as a masseur. It was with deep regret that we later recorded the death of Mr. F. Tibble, who had served on the Association's Committee for many years, himself totally blind; and of Mrs. Taylor, who had been a member of the committee for only one month.

*Winter Coal.* Coal at the rate of 4 cwts. a month was given by the Association to all blind people over 70; and a gift of 2 cwts. was made at Christmas to all who had not received winter coal, in addition to a Christmas present of 5/- or its equivalent in the form of a gift.

*Bus Passes, Cinema Passes.* The Association is indebted to the Corporation for free passes on the Corporation buses, and to cinema managers for free passes in to the cinemas for blind people accompanied by a guide. The Thames Valley Traction Co. Ltd., has also allowed free passes to 35 of the blind people.

*Auditing.* The Association is grateful to the auditing department of the Corporation for the half-yearly audit of its accounts, both statutory and voluntary.

*Home for the Blind.* Several houses were inspected during the year, but none, unfortunately, considered suitable. The Association still therefore retains its £3,000 which it is hoped will be used before long in the establishment of a Home, to the benefit of all our blind people who are lonely or ill-housed."

**Report of the Consulting Ophthalmic Surgeon.** Mr. G. T. Willoughby Cashell, F.R.C.S., has given the following report in connection with the work he has undertaken during the year :—

" Of the 26 cases examined for admission to the blind register in 1949, 22 were found to be blind within the meaning of the Act and 4 were not.

	Blind	Not Blind	Total
Cataract ...	8	—	8
Glaucoma ...	4	2	6
Myopia ...	—	—	—
Retinal conditions	2	—	2
Congenital „	1	1	2
Infective „	2	1	3
Degenerative „	5	—	5
	22	4	26

Six of the cases of cataract were recommended for operation, 1 case was unsuitable for operation on account of the patient's age and mental condition, and 1, following a successful cataract extraction, had put corn cure into the eye by mistake, thus rendering the eye blind.

One of the cases blind from glaucoma had refused operation and 3 had been operated on, 2 of them many years ago. Both uncertified cases in this category had been operated upon.

One of the cases under the heading 'retinal conditions' was suffering from pigmentary degeneration of the retina and choroid and the other from glaucoma secondary to a venous thrombosis.

The one case certified blind from a congenital condition was a case of oxycephaly and the case not blind had dislocated lenses.

Irido-cyclitis, in one case probably tuberculous in origin, was responsible for the blindness of the 2 cases under the heading



‘infective conditions.’ The third and uncertified case recommended for special education was a child who had had meningitis with secondary uveal infection in both eyes.

All the cases under the heading ‘degenerative conditions’ were blind from macula degeneration.”

**Welfare of the Deaf and Dumb.** Arrangements for the Welfare of the Deaf and Dumb are carried out by the Oxford Diocesan Association for the Deaf and Dumb.

Discussion took place as to the possibility of arranging a formal agency arrangement between the various local authorities in the diocese and the Association, but up to the present, Reading has not joined in any such arrangement.

**Welfare of the Hard of Hearing.** Arrangements for the Welfare of the Hard of Hearing are carried out by the Reading Hard of Hearing Association. A financial contribution is made by the Corporation, but there is no formal agency agreement.

## MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

### CREMATION

The Medical Officer of Health is the medical referee to the Reading Crematorium. During the year 524 cremations were carried out.

### PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE

A certain amount of bacteriological work is carried out at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, but unfortunately this laboratory is not yet able to give an adequate service.

### NURSING HOMES

There are 9 homes registered with the local authority, providing bed accommodation for 29 maternity patients and 72 others, a total of 101 beds.

All homes were inspected during the year.

### NURSERY AND CHILD MINDERS ACT, 1948

Child minders registered, 3.

Number of children per session, 25.

No fresh applications for registration were received during the year.

### CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN

The chief sanitary inspector has given lectures on Food hygiene to the Licensed Victuallers Association and the Fish Traders Association ; these lectures were given by arrangement with the Reading Technical College.

The Central Council for Health Education also organised a one-day course of lectures for those engaged in the school meals service in Reading and surrounding areas.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF READING

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

School Medical Officer

FOR THE YEAR

1949



## READING EDUCATION COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Councillor G. S. Field, O.B.E., T.D., J.P.)

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## STAFF AT DECEMBER 31st, 1949

### School Medical Officer

E. HUGHES, M.D., D.P.H., D.P.A.

### Senior Assistant School Medical Officer

T. W. ROBSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

### Assistant School Medical Officers

VIOLET FRASER, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.  
S. J. McCLATCHEY, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.Q., D.P.H.

### Senior Dental Officer

J. CAMPBELL, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Ed.)

### Dental Officers

Miss M. J. RIPLEY, L.D.S., R.C.S. (left 31.1.49)  
Mrs. M. U. GODDARD, L.D.S., R.C.S.  
Mrs. M. L. C. YOUNG, L.D.S., R.C.S. (part-time)

### School Nurses

Miss O. EDGAR	Mrs. H. KING	Miss F. L. GATES
Mrs. I. E. WHITE	Mrs. M. W. VINCENT	Miss F. N. FEWTRELL
	Miss M. PLATT	

### Senior Clerk

Miss W. M. DIX

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S DEPARTMENT,  
TOWN HALL,  
READING,

*September, 1950.*

**TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the work of the School Health Service for 1949.

One of the difficulties about the presentation of a report of this nature is that the School Health Service is one of those quiet, unspectacular services which carry on from day to day and have very little "news value" and about which it is difficult to make fresh comment each year. Nevertheless the service is very much appreciated by teachers and parents alike and we have worked in close co-operation with the Education Department to ensure that so far as possible children receive the education which is appropriate to their age, aptitude and ability.

I have made some reference to the impact of the National Health Service Act upon the work of the department in my introduction to the Health Committee, and there is no need to repeat it in full here. So far as the majority of specialist services are concerned (e.g., orthopaedic, E.N.T., dermatological) there has been no great difference since 5th July, 1948, since these services have always been based on the local hospitals. There has been considerable delay in the provision of spectacles for school children and under the present system it is very difficult to ascertain whether or not a child has obtained the spectacles which have been prescribed for him. But at the time of writing there are signs that the delay is decreasing.

During the year we have paid special attention to the ascertainment of handicapped children. The table on page 81 gives particulars of the position on December 31st, and I think it can be claimed that the children ascertained to be handicapped children have had appropriate arrangements made for their education.

Sometimes the question is asked: Is there any need for the School Health Service now that the National Health Service Act provides so much in the way of medical attention? I consider that the answer is an emphatic "yes." There is no body of medical and nursing personnel who have the training, outlook, facilities

or time to give the consideration to the many contacts which exist between a child's health and his education. Provided that we can recruit staff which is adequate in calibre and in numbers, I am sure that there is a place for the School Health Service ; indeed if the present system were abolished the educationalists would be amongst the first to complain.

No report of mine can be complete without an expression of appreciation to the Chief Education Officer, his office staff and the teachers for their close co-operation and help during the year. I must also pay tribute to the loyalty and hard work of my own staff and last, but not least, I would like to thank the Chairman and members of the Welfare Sub-Committee for their interest and support during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

E. HUGHES,

*School Medical Officer.*

## SCHOOL POPULATION

The following figures give the school population for the various age groups.

Between 14-15	13-14	12-13	11-12	10-11	9-10	8-9	7-8	6-7	5-6	Total all ages
1,502	1,494	1,636	1,566	1,494	1,456	1,437	1,542	1,652	1,781	15,560

These figures show an increase over those for last year and these figures are likely to increase for some years because of the number of children in the lower age groups which are estimated to be as follows :—

Between 4-5	3-4	2-3	1-2	Under 1
1642	1,887	2,108	1,845	1,722

**Handicapped Children.** During the year attempts were made to carry out the ascertainment of handicapped children on a systematic basis. The following table gives the position as at December 31st, 1949 :—



HANDICAPPED CHILDREN. SUMMARY OF POSITION AT DECEMBER 31st, 1949

Type of Handicap	No. on Register 31/12/49		Receiving appropriate education		(a) No. in residential schools. (b) No. attending day schools		Not in receipt of appropriate education but on waiting list for such		Not in receipt of appropriate education and no prospect of receiving it in the immediate future because facilities absent or not easily available		Remarks
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
1—Blind ...	4	2	4	2	(a) 4	(a) 2	—	—	—	—	
2—Partially sighted ...	1	5	1	4	(a) 1	(a) 4	—	1	—	—	
3—Deaf ...	9	8	6	4	(a) 6	(a) 4	3	4	—	—	
4—Partially deaf	1	1	1	—	(a) 1	—	—	1	—	—	
5—Delicate Children ...	21	27	21	27	(a) — (b) 21	(a) — (b) 27	—	—	—	—	
6—Diabetic ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
7—E.S.N. ...	63	37	53	33	(a) 1 (b) 52	(a) 1 (b) 32	10	4	—	—	
8—Epileptic ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
9—Maladjusted ...	22	12	22	12	(a) 1 (b) 21	(a) 2 (b) 10	—	—	—	—	(b) in hostels
10—Physically Handicapped	35	17	30	13	(a) 3 (b) 27	(a) 1 (b) 12	2	1	—	—	3 m. 3 f. being taught at home
11—Speech Defects	39	23	39	23			3	2			

## PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

The work of periodic medical inspection was carried out throughout the year and was so arranged that each department was visited once a term. This method allows of more frequent contacts with the schools and facilitates the following up of absentees and observation cases.

This work is unspectacular and it is difficult to describe it in other than tabular form, but it does constitute an important aspect of the School Health Service and one which is much appreciated by parents.

The following tables give particulars :—

TABLE I

### A—Periodic Medical Inspections

Entrants	...	...	...	2,604
Second Age Group		...	...	1,860
Third Age Group	...	...	...	775
Total				5,239
Number of other periodic inspections	...	...	...	1,062
Grand Total				6,301

### B—Other Inspections

Number of special Inspections	...	1,127
Number of Re-Inspections	...	2,343
Total		3,470

### C—Pupils found to require Treatment

Group (1)	For defective vision (excluding squint) (2)	For any of the other conditions recorded in Table II (3)	Total individual pupils (4)
Entrants	59	443	493
Second age group	103	342	393
Third age group	67	164	211
Total (prescribed groups)	229	949	1,097
Other Periodic Inspections	52	128	150
Grand Total	281	1,077	1,247

TABLE II  
Return of Defects found by Medical Inspection in  
the year ended December 31st, 1949

Defect or Disease  (1)	Periodic Inspections		Special Inspections	
	No. of defects		No. of defects	
	Requiring treatment (2)	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment (3)	Requiring treatment (4)	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment (5)
Skin ... ..	85	19	913	4
Eyes—				
(a) Vision ...	281	199	28	—
(b) Squint ...	67	45	—	—
(c) Other ...	16	8	210	—
Ears—				
(a) Hearing ...	18	21	14	—
(b) Otitis Media	39	30	99	—
(c) Other ...	21	7	176	1
Nose or Throat ...	228	246	180	1
Speech ... ..	29	29	1	—
Cervical Glands ...	12	72	37	—
Heart and Circulation	15	42	3	—
Lungs ... ..	61	98	44	1
Developmental—				
(a) Hernia ...	3	8	—	—
(b) Other	—	—	—	—
Orthopaedic—				
(a) Posture ...	100	48	3	—
(b) Flat foot ...	168	58	9	—
(c) Other ...	73	72	31	1
Nervous system—				
(a) Epilepsy ...	1	3	1	—
(b) Other ...	18	13	13	—
Psychological—				
(a) Development	5	10	61	—
(b) Stability ...	12	55	42	—
Other ... ..	222	169	3,264	21



TABLE III

## Minor Ailments

	Number of Defects treated or under treatment during the year
<b>SKIN—</b>	
Ringworm—Scalp—	
(i) X-ray treatment ... ..	7
(ii) Other treatment ... ..	17
Ringworm—Body ... ..	93
Scabies ... ..	101
Impetigo ... ..	85
Other skin diseases ... ..	534
Eye Disease ... .. (External and other, but excluding errors of refraction, squint and cases admitted to hospital)	239
Ear Defects ... .. Treatment for serious diseases of the ear (e.g., operative treatment in hospital)	293
Miscellaneous ... ..	3,764
Total ...	5,133
Total number of attendances at Authority's minor ailments clinics ... ..	36,123
<b>Defective Vision and Squint</b>	No. of defects dealt with
Errors of Refraction (including squint)... ..	817
Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group 1) ... ..	59
Total ...	876
No. of pupils for whom spectacles were	540
(a) prescribed	
(b) obtained	415
<b>Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat</b>	Total number treated
Received operative treatment—	
(a) for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis ... ..	408
(b) for other nose and throat conditions ... ..	100
Received other forms of treatment ... ..	254
Total ...	762

## Child Guidance Treatment and Speech Therapy

No. of pupils treated (a) under Child Guidance arrange-	
ments	66
(b) under Speech Therapy arrange-	
ments	125

**Nutrition.** The Classification of the General Condition of Pupils Inspected during the year in the Age Groups.

Age Groups	Number of pupils Inspected	A (Good)		B (Fair)		C (Poor)	
		No.	% of col. 2	No.	% of col. 2	No.	% of col. 2
Entrants ... ..	2,604	874	33.5	1,716	65.9	14	.5
Second Age Group ...	1,860	521	28.1	1,324	71.2	15	.8
Third Age Group ...	775	284	36.6	487	62.8	4	.5
Other Periodic Inspections ...	1,062	403	37.9	656	61.7	3	.2
Total ...	6,301	2,082	33.04	4,183	66.4	36	.6

**School Dental Service.** Mr. J. Campbell, L.D.S., reports as follows :—

“ The year commenced with a further curtailment of the staff, by the resignation of Miss M. J. Ripley, who left the service on January 31st.

This left only the Senior Dental Officer to carry on, until March 21st, when Mrs. M. U. Goddard commenced duty. Whitley Dental Clinic was reopened on April 7th, for three sessions weekly, a part-time Dental Officer, Mrs. Young, taking up duty on that date.

Approximately 25% of the children on the school register were inspected during the year, and 56% of these were referred for treatment. Out of this number 89% accepted treatment. This increase in the acceptance rate, compared to 1948, must be offset by the decrease in the number of children inspected at school.

Special cases or casuals, have risen by 72% during the year. The majority of these cases are in a septic condition by the time the Dental Officer sees them, and this means an increase in the number of General Anaesthetics.

The demand for orthodontic treatment continues to be high, but cases must be selected at present, owing to the shortage of staff. At the same time, there has been an increase in the number of appliances fitted. Parents have given excellent co-operation and are extremely appreciative of this treatment.

There has been a slight increase in the number of dentures, supplied to children.

Up to date X-rays have been taken at Battle Hospital, and during the year numbered twenty-nine. An X-ray machine added to our equipment would be an invaluable asset.

The following tables show the details of the work carried out.

*Annual Dental Report, 1949 :—*

1—Number of children inspected at school—

(a) Routine Age Groups—

5 years ...	...	...	...	...	176
6 „ ...	...	...	...	...	271
7 „ ...	...	...	...	...	332
8 „ ...	...	...	...	...	372
9 „ ...	...	...	...	...	388
10 „ ...	...	...	...	...	425
11 „ ...	...	...	...	...	448
12 „ ...	...	...	...	...	368
13 „ ...	...	...	...	...	371
14 „ ...	...	...	...	...	385
15 „ ...	...	...	...	...	313
16 „ ...	...	...	...	...	97
17 „ ...	...	...	...	...	35
18 „ ...	...	...	...	...	8

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3,989

(b) Specials ... .. 2,125

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Total ... .. 6,114

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2—Number found to require treatment ... 4,391

3—Number actually treated ... .. 3,841

4—Number attendances ... .. 8,335

5—Half-day's inspection ... .. 25

„ „ treatment ... .. 906

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931

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6—Fillings—Permanent ... .. 2,946

Temporary... .. 962

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3,908



7—Extractions—Permanent	...	...	...	647
Temporary	...	...	...	3,539
Orthodontic	...	...	...	70
				<hr/> 4,256
8—Administration of General Anaesthetics	...	...	...	1,527
9—Other Operations—Permanent	...	...	...	2,279
Temporary	...	...	...	1,191
				<hr/> 3,470
10—Cases for advice only	...	...	...	788

The following also received dental treatment.

	No. Treated	No. Attends.	No. Extracts	No. Fillings	General Anaes- thetics	No. Dis- charged
Kennylands Camp	1	2	1	—	1	1
Christ's Hospital	10	16	—	16	—	10
Blue Coat School	3	4	—	4	—	3
Abbey School ...	2	5	2	7	—	2
St. Joseph's Covent	3	38	—	23	—	2
Occupation Centre	8	21	8	4	3	7
Remand Home ...	1	4	2	—	1	1

Thirty-five school children were supplied with dentures during the year. Fractures of dentures have only numbered three, during the current period.

Fifty children were fitted with orthodontic appliances, and in eight cases, additions were made to existing appliances.

### MINOR AILMENTS CLINIC

The following figures show the attendances at the various clinics :—

Queen's Road Clinic	...	...	4,264
Whitley Clinic	...	...	10,891
Grovelands Clinic	...	...	9,119
Battle Clinic	...	...	8,726
Caversham Clinic	...	...	3,097
Reading School Clinic	...	...	26
			<hr/>
Total			36,123
			<hr/>

## SPEECH THERAPY CLINIC

125 children attended the Speech Clinic during 1949.  
 48 children were discharged, cured, or improved.  
 17 left the clinic to be kept under observation.  
 5 children left before treatment was completed.  
 The remaining 55 continued into 1950.  
 75 children had defective articulation.  
 29 cases of stammering.  
 6 cases of cerebral palsy.  
 7 of cleft palate or malformed uvula.  
 8 with disorders of voice or resonance.

Clinics were held at Queen's Road, Battle, Grovelands, Whitley, and Whitley Special School.

The good attendance at the Speech Clinic during 1949 has been to a great extent due to the co-operation of the school teachers, whose help and interest has been much appreciated.

## UNCLEANLINESS

The arrangements for routine inspection of children and for dealing with those found to be unclean remain as in previous years.

The following table gives particulars :—

(1)	Total number of examinations in the schools by school nurses or other authorised persons ... ..	51,105
(2)	Total number of individual pupils found to be infested... ..	926
(3)	Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued. (Section 54 (2) Education Act 1944) ... ..	162
(4)	Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued. (Section 54 (3) ) ...	10

## REPORT OF THE ORGANISERS OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The work of the Organisers of Physical Education is of especial interest to the School Health Service, and I am, therefore, very pleased to be able to present the following report :—

“ The standard of work in the Primary Schools remains generally satisfactory and the interest and enthusiasm of the teaching staff has been maintained throughout the year under review. There can be little doubt that the attention given to

this subject in these schools is having a marked effect on the ability of the pupils.

The success of the progressive training in the Primary departments is reflected especially in the lower classes in the Secondary Schools, but, unfortunately, only too often do we find that the lack of teachers with specialised training in physical education does not permit us to develop the work to its fullest extent with the older children. Again, in the Secondary Schools, the lack of gymnasia, swimming baths and playing fields is a great handicap.

*Courses.* The training courses held for teachers have been well attended and the result of the training is seen in the work of the school .

*Clothing.* The most pleasing feature of our work during 1949 has been the marked improvement in personal hygiene among the children of all ages. This is due to the persistence and teaching of the staffs in the schools. They have had to combat not only the backwardness of the children in changing clothing for physical activities and certain difficulties in the outlook of some parents towards changing for physical training, but also the lack of suitable accommodation in the schools. Improvisation remains the keyword here as indeed it does with most of our work.

*Apparatus.* A considerable amount of new apparatus was supplied and the necessary repairs to that already in schools were carried out by the manufacturers at the annual inspection. The supply of individual mats for the children has enabled a wider programme to be carried out in the playgrounds where much of the physical training is done.

*Games.* Public parks and school playing fields were extensively used throughout the year. The development of the school fields continued satisfactorily and a word of praise is due to the groundsmen whose difficulties were increased by the very dry spell during the summer months and the consequent heavy demands of the schools for pitches.

*Swimming.* The manner in which the teachers and instructors continued their efforts in swimming deserves the highest praise. Approximately 44,000 attendances were recorded during the year and 2,225 pupils gained certificates of the Reading Schools Swimming Association.



The summer swimming programme was interrupted by the closure of the outdoor baths. It is our constant hope that the need for first-class swimming facilities for the town and the school children is being considered by the Parks Committee.

*Voluntary Associations.* We again take this opportunity of recording the value of the assistance given to physical education in general by the Schools Voluntary Associations.

In conclusion we express our thanks to the Education Committee for its practical assistance, to the Chief Education Officer for his valuable guidance and to the Head Teachers and teaching staff for their co-operation."

### **Whitley Special School**

The school continued its care and education of physically handicapped, delicate and educationally subnormal children; and throughout the year, the rolls in each department were at their maximum.

*Physically Handicapped Department.* In January, 1949, there were 31 boys and 12 girls on the roll, and in December 29 boys and 11 girls. Seven children were admitted during the year; two boys and two girls left for employment; two boys for training at Treloar College; one left the district; one went temporarily to the Wingfield Morris Hospital for treatment and two boys attained fitness to return to ordinary school.

Miss Masters, the teacher of the younger class, left to take an appointment as headmistress under the Middlesex Authority and Mrs. Spencer was appointed to take charge of the class in November.

*Delicate Department.* The roll in January, 1949, was 20 boys and 32 girls, and in December 21 boys and 27 girls. Fourteen children were admitted during the year. Fifteen returned fit to ordinary school; one boy was transferred to the P.H. Department; one girl to the E.S.N. Department, and two boys and two girls left for employment.

*Educationally Sub-normal Department.* The roll in January, 1949, was 48 boys and 28 girls; in December 50 boys and 31 girls. Fifteen children were admitted during the year. One girl was transferred to another school; one boy left the district; one boy was excluded ineducable and another left for institutional treatment. Four boys and two girls left for employment.

## SCHOOL MEALS SERVICE

This very important service continued to increase during the year, and I am indebted to Miss P. E. Hall for the following information :—

“ The average number of meals served daily rose to 6,950 at the end of the Christmas Term. ”

This rise was made possible by the opening of all the new canteens, six new ones have been opened since May, 1949. This increases the total capacity of all the kitchens to 8,500 meals daily. Therefore, it is still possible to supply 1,400 more meals daily.

It has been possible to make good use of fruit and fresh vegetables. Winter salads have been introduced with considerable success this winter. The full rations of meat, fresh milk, cheese and bacon are taken and thus the children receive an adequate amount of protein in their mid-day meal.”

## CHILD GUIDANCE CLINIC

The following figures relate to Reading children who attended the Reading and Berkshire Child Guidance Clinic :—

No. of cases brought forward from previous year	...	...	...	97
No. of new cases referred	...	...	...	125
Total No. of cases seen for consultation and treatment	...	...	...	210
No. of cases closed	...	...	...	141
After consultation and advice only				60
No. of cases treated and closed—				
Adjusted	...	...	...	18
Improved	...	...	...	34
No change	...	...	...	3
Prematurely closed...	...	...	...	11
Closed after advice and supervision				7
No. of attendances—				
For consultation only	...	...	...	129
Intelligence test only	...	...	...	14
Treatment interviews only, including remedial coaching	...	...	...	1,262
No. of children admitted to hostels for maladjusted children	...	...	...	26







